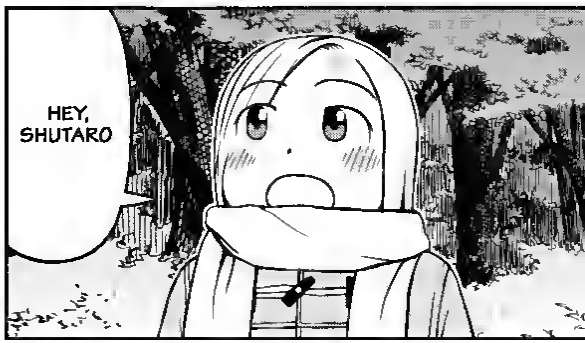
CHAPTER 45

DO YOU WANT THE EGG OR NOT?

ENJOYING THE COMFORT OF HOME DURING A COLD WINTER.

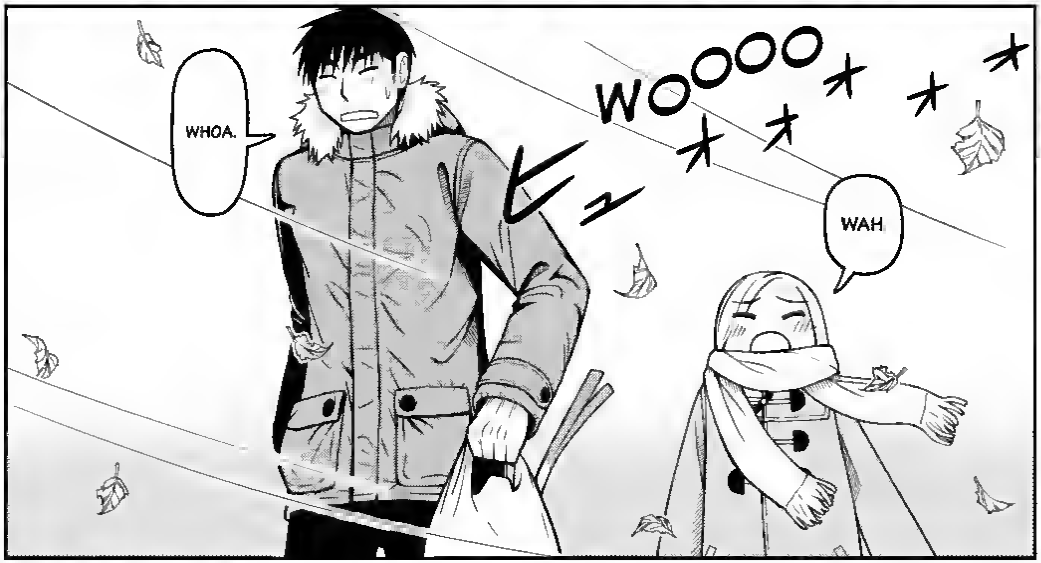
THE DAY AFTER THE FIRST SNOW IN KITA-KARUIZAWA, THE TWO RETURN FROM A HAPPY DAY OF SHOPPING...

MOST OF THE SNOW FROM YESTERDAY DIDN'T STICK
YEAH


HEY, SHUTARO

HM?

WELL,
THE SNOW PROBABLY WON'T START STICKING UNTIL DECEMBER.
BUT...


WHOA.
WOOOO
WAH

BUT NINA WANTS TO EAT SOMETHING WARM

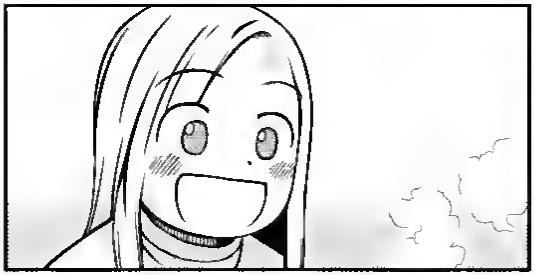
THIS COLD DOESN'T FAZE YOU AT ALL, DOES IT, NINA?
NOPE.

IT DEFINITELY FEELS LIKE WINTER NOW

IT'S YOUR LUCKY DAY, NINA.
HE HE HE.
WE'RE GONNA HAVE SUKIYAKI TONIGHT.
SUKIYAKI?

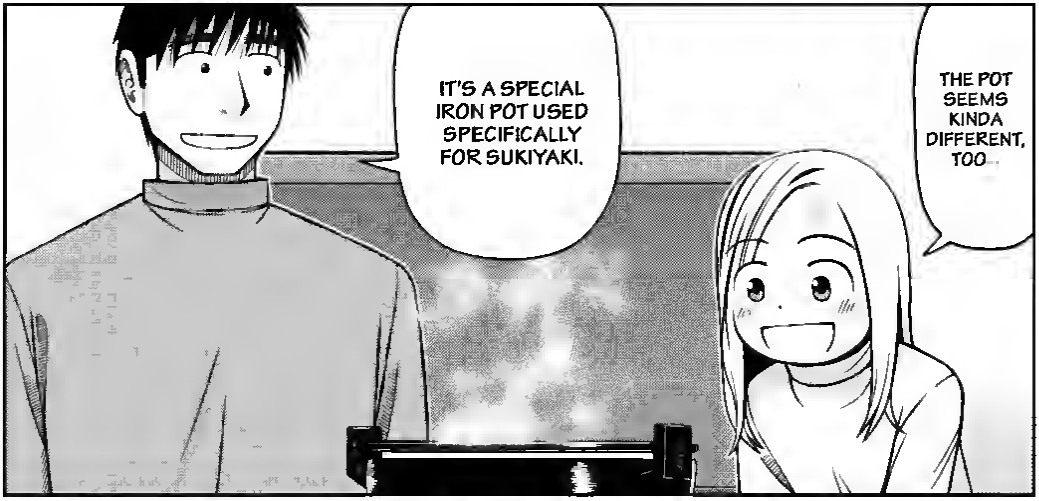
WAIT, YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT IS?
NOPE
SUKI-YAKI IS LIKE...
THE MOST FAMOUS JAPANESE FOOD AFTER SUSHI AND TEMPURAI
NO, CURRY AND RAMEN ARE MORE FAMOUS
HUH
YOU DON'T SOUND EXCITED
ごちそうなのに…
EVEN THOUGH IT'S QUITE A TREAT
W-WELL THAT MIGHT BE TRUE, BUT...
SUKIYAKI'S ALSO A STAPLE OF JAPANESE FOOD
IT'S SUPER DELICIOUS, SO YOU SHOULD LOOK FORWARD TO IT, YOU KNOW
OKAY
FINE

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING



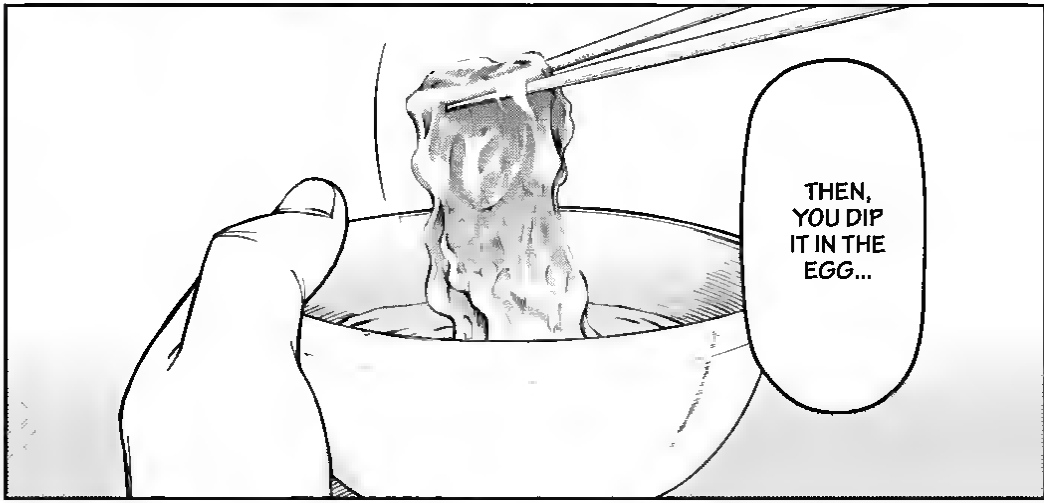
SO THIS IS SUKIYAKI...
BUBBLE
BUBBLE
BUBBLE

11月
SO YOU MADE THIS TODAY, GRAMPS?
IT HAS SOY SAUCE, MIRIN, SAKE, SUGAR...
THIS IS OUR FAMILY'S SPECIAL SUKIYAKI.

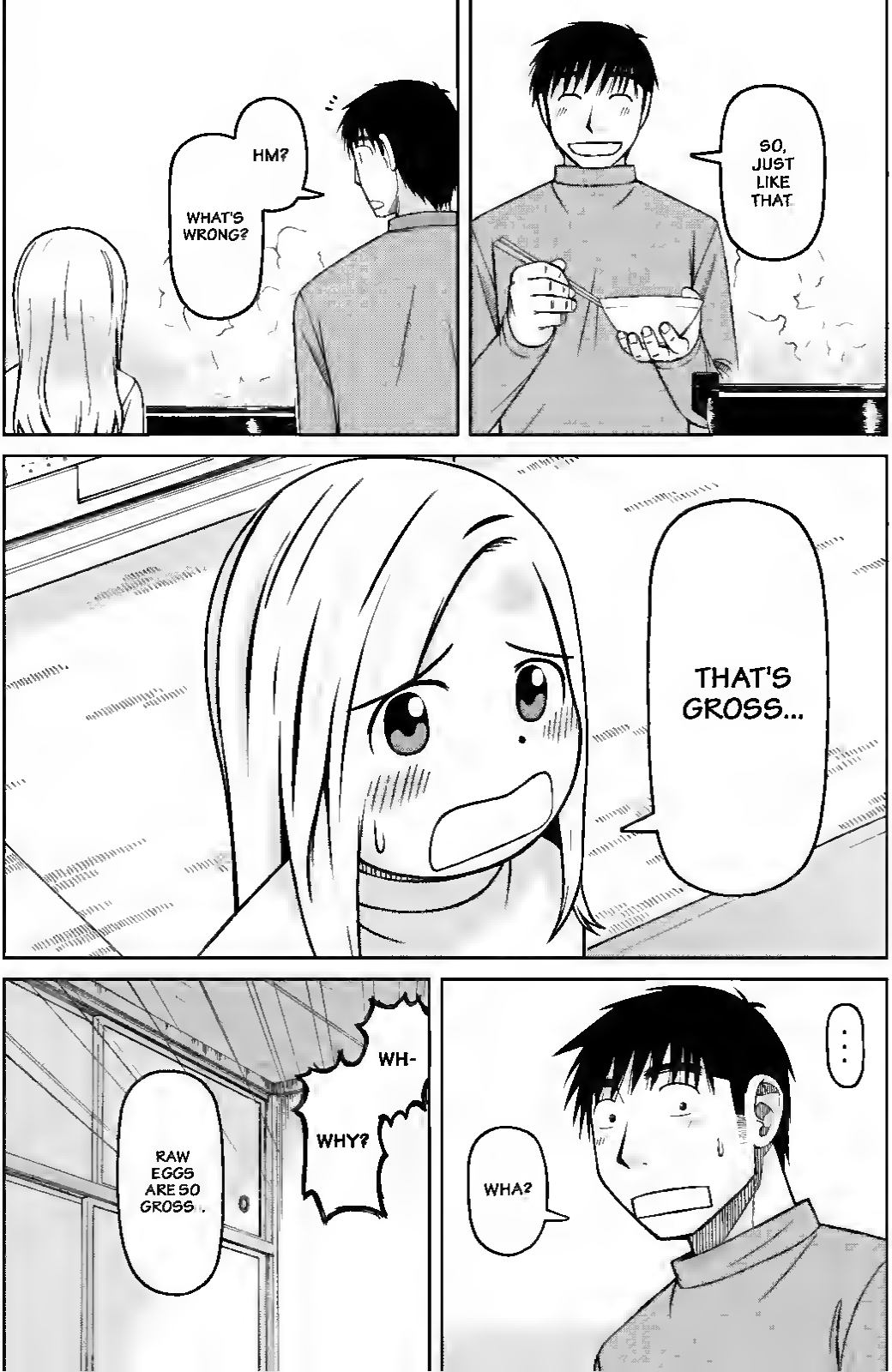

IT'S A SPECIAL IRON POT USED SPECIFICALLY FOR SUKIYAKI.
THE POT SEEMS KINDA DIFFERENT, TOO...

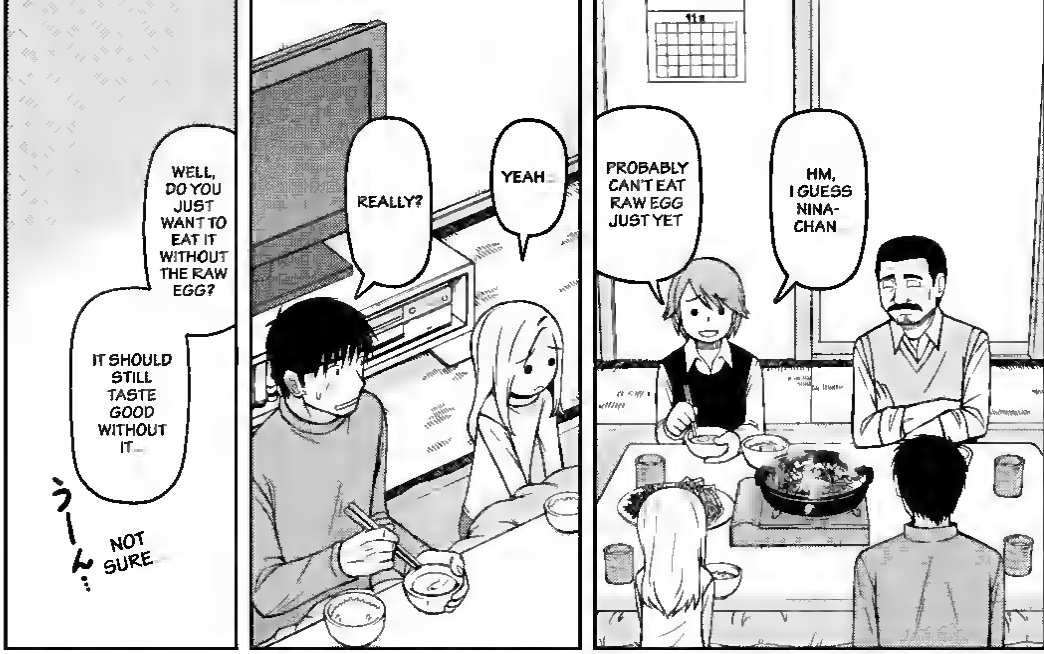
LET ME SHOW YOU HOW IT'S DONE.
OKAY.
RIGHT, I GUESS I SHOULD PROBABLY EXPLAIN...
HOW DO YOU EAT THIS?
UM...

THANK YOU FOR THE MEAL
いただきます
STIR
しゃか
STIR
しゃか
FIRST, YOU STIR THE RAW EGG IN YOUR BOWL.
NEXT, YOU GRAB THINGS YOU WANT TO EAT FROM THE POT.
I'M GOING FOR THE MEAT
ここはやっぱり肉だな

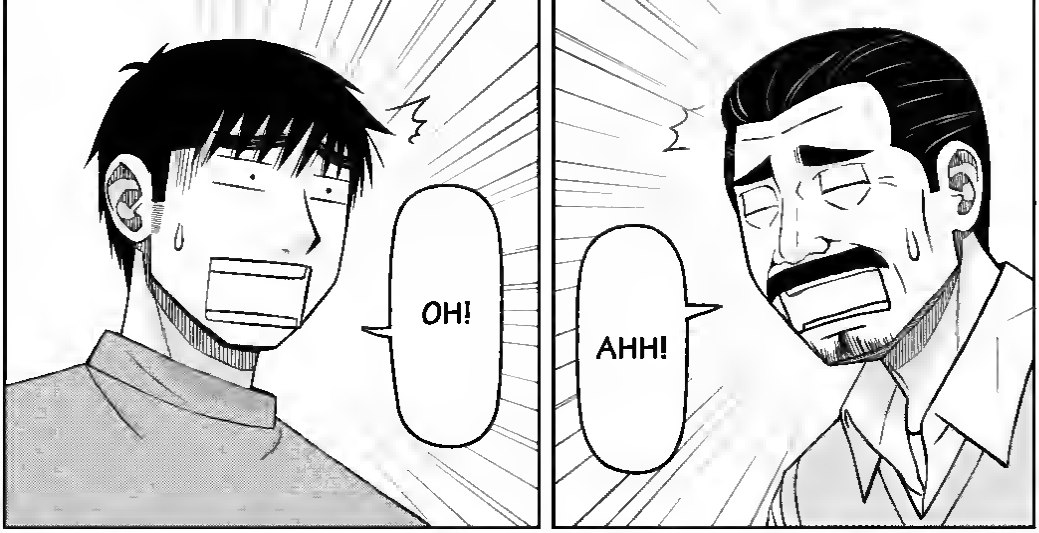

THEN, YOU DIP IT IN THE EGG...

YOU GO LIKE THIS...
もぐ
CHEW
MMM...
もぐ
CHEW
SO GOOD!
さすが100g800円の肉!!
JUST WHAT I'D EXPECT FROM MEAT THAT COSTS 800 YEN FOR 100 GRAMS!


HM?
WHAT'S WRONG?
SO, JUST LIKE THAT
THAT'S GROSS...
WH-
WHY?
RAW EGGS ARE SO GROSS.
WHA?
...

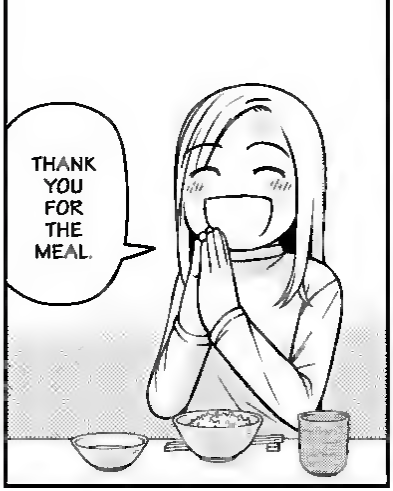

HM, I GUESS NINA-CHAN
PROBABLY CAN'T EAT RAW EGG JUST YET
YEAH...
REALLY?
WELL, DO YOU JUST WANT TO EAT IT WITHOUT THE RAW EGG?
IT SHOULD STILL TASTE GOOD WITHOUT IT...
うーん... NOT SURE

DON'T WORRY, IT'S ALL RIGHT
STIR しゃか
STIR しゃか
STIR しゃか
LET'S JUST DO THIS WITH THE EGG.
GLOP トローー

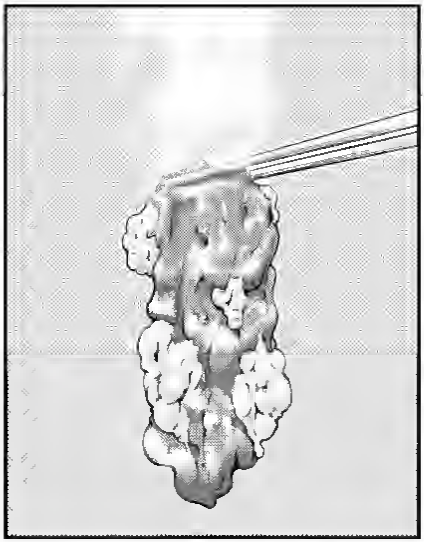

OH!
AHH!

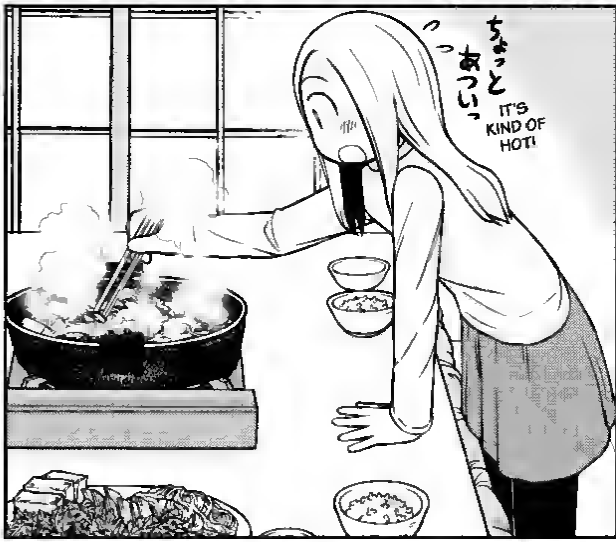
NINA-CHAN SHOULD BE ABLE TO EAT IT, TOO
IF WE COOK THE EGG...
YEP.

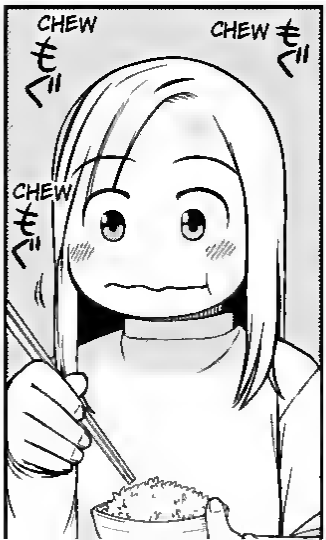
I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL THAT WAS KIND OF A WASTE...
IT'S FINE, IT WON'T AFFECT THE TASTE MUCH
HONEY...

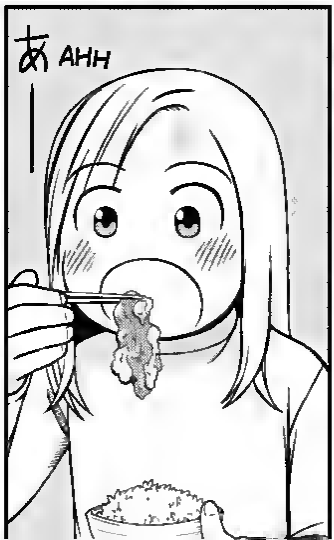

THANK YOU FOR THE MEAL.

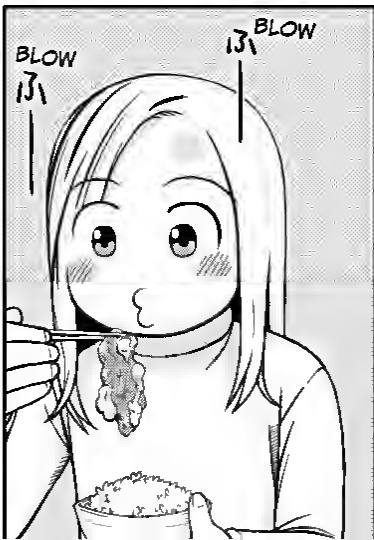
OKAY.
LET'S ALL EAT NOW.
ALL RIGHT, IT'S DONE.

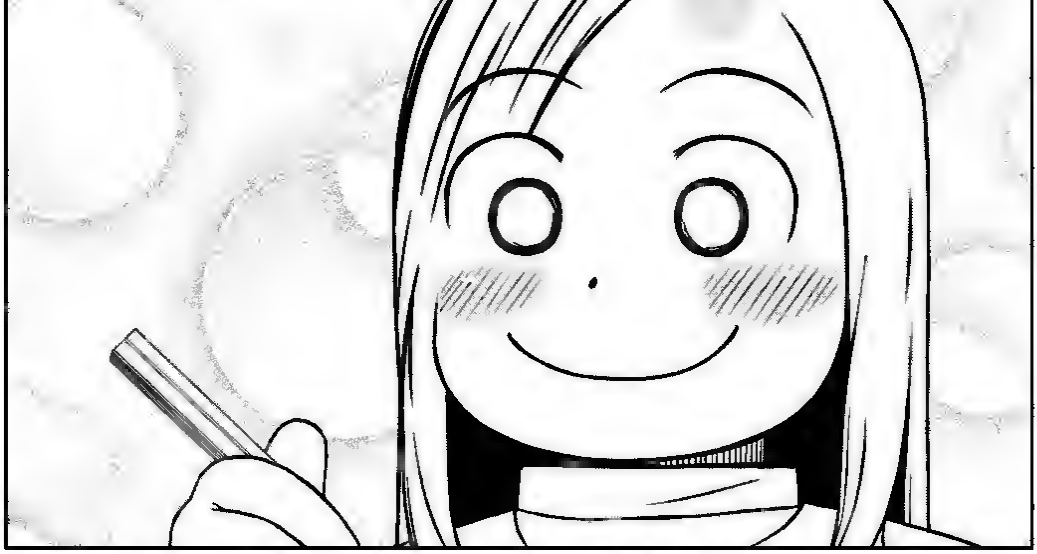


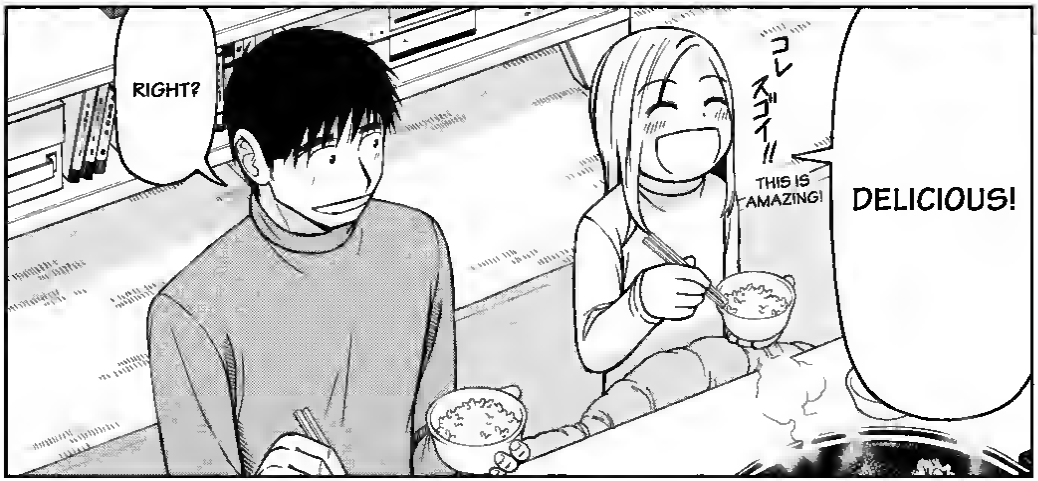

ちょっとあつい
IT'S KIND OF HOT!


CHEW もぐ
CHEW もぐ
CHEW もぐ


あ AHH

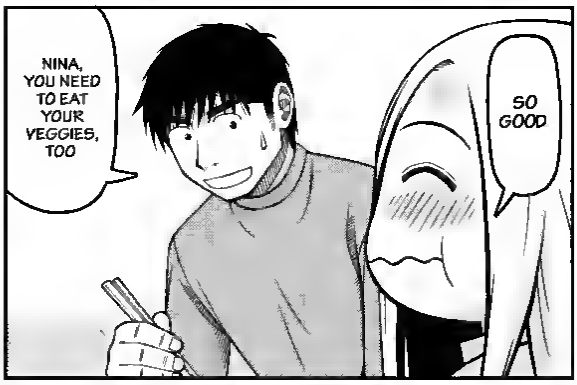

BLOW ふー
BLOW ふー

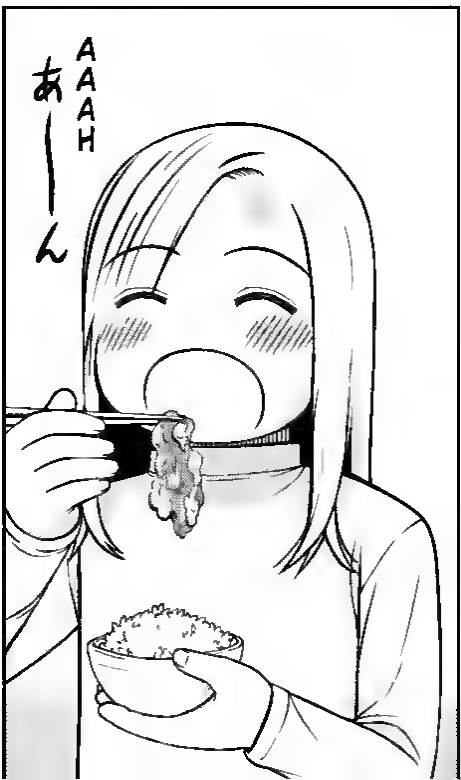



RIGHT?
コレ スゴイ!!
THIS IS AMAZING!
DELICIOUS!

WE'VE GOT PLENTY OF MEAT AND VEGETABLES, SO GO AHEAD AND EAT AS MUCH AS YOU WANT.
YAY!

WELL,
IT IS MY SPECIAL BROTH
YOU'RE THE BEST, GRANDPA.

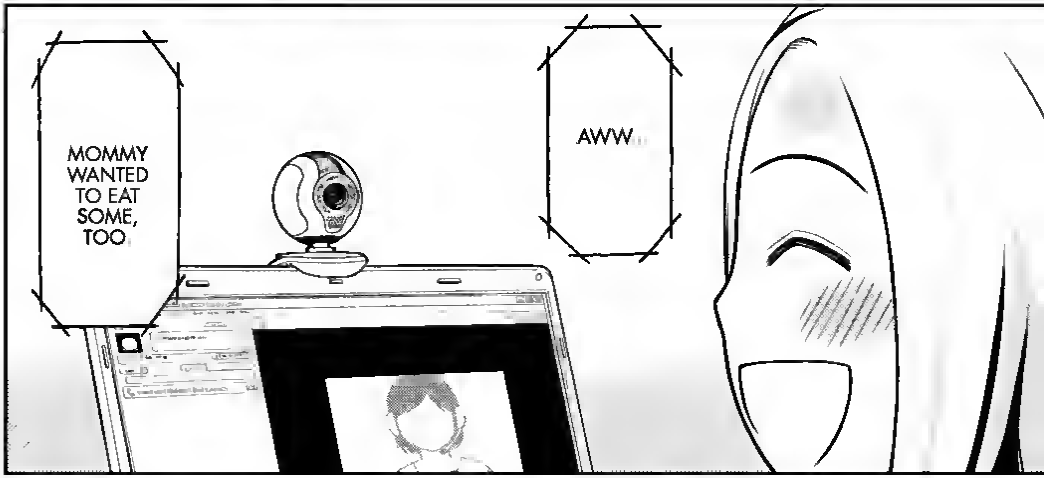

NINA, YOU NEED TO EAT YOUR VEGGIES, TOO
SO GOOD

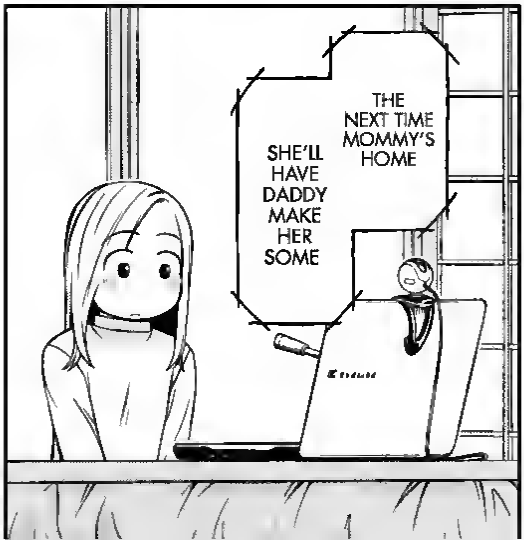

AAAH
あーん

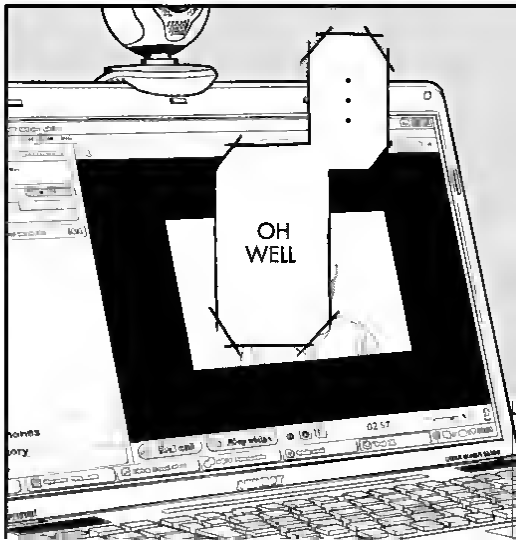
BUSTED
YOU'RE ONE TO TALK, YOU'RE ONLY EATING THE MEAT

THE UDDN IS SUPER TASTY, TOO!
ISN'T SUKIYAKI DELICIOUS?
THERE'S UDON, TOO?
うどんもあるの!?
FINALLY, WE PUT IN THE UDON.
ズズー
SLURP
SUKIYAKI'S THE BEST.
YEAH!
SUKIYAKI?

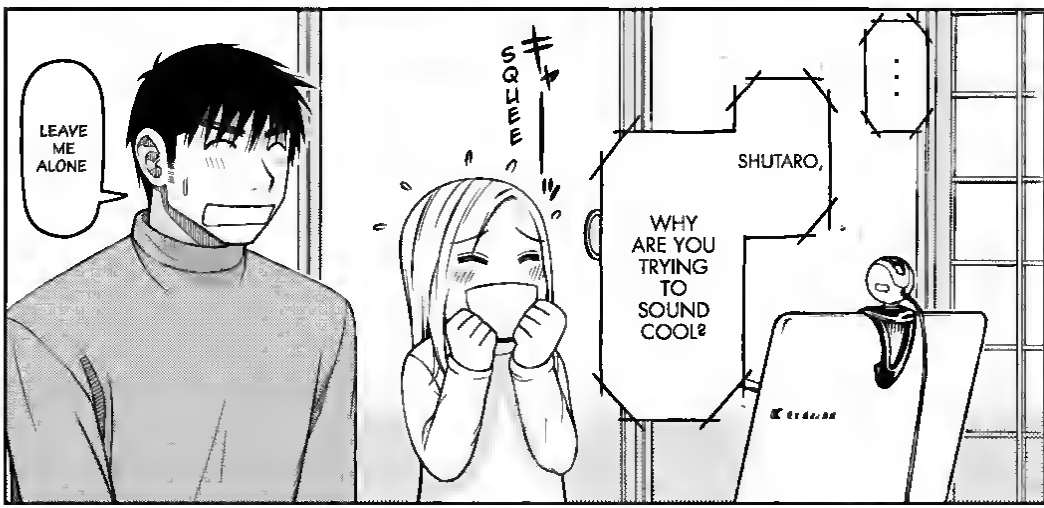
IT WAS REALLY GOOD.
100 GRAMS OF BEEF FOR 800 YEN?
ISN'T THAT A BIT TOO MUCH?


MOMMY WANTED TO EAT SOME, TOO.
AWW...


THE NEXT TIME MOMMY'S HOME
SHE'LL HAVE DADDY MAKE HER SOME


...
OH WELL

THE NEXT TIME MOMMY'S HOME?
...
HUH
...
MOMMY'S GOING TO BE BACK NEXT MONTH.
NEE-CHAN, YOU'RE COMING HOME?
WHA?
YEP, I'M STARTING CHRISTMAS BREAK A LITTLE EARLY THIS YEAR.



THERE'S A LOT OF WARMTH AT HOME!

CHAPTER 46 THE ONE IN THE MIDDLE

I SAID THAT...

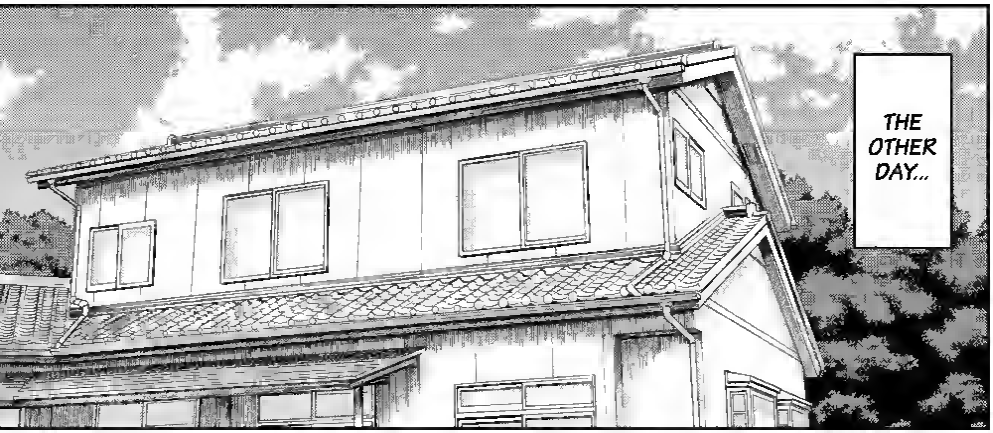
SHUTARO IS TAKEN ABACK BY ARISA AND MAKOTO'S ARGUMENT...

I'M SAYING WE SHOULD GET CUTE ONES, LIKE THESE!
WHY IS IT YOUR CHOICE?

THE THREE OF US SHOULD BUY THESE STICKERS!

WELL, I DON'T WANT THOSE LAME ONES, EITHER!
I DON'T LIKE GIRLY THINGS LIKE THAT!

WHEN NINA'S THERE, WE'RE ALL REALLY GOOD FRIENDS
...
REALLY?
THEY ARE FINE
THEY SEEM TO BE ARGUING A LOT, YOU SURE THEY'RE OKAY?

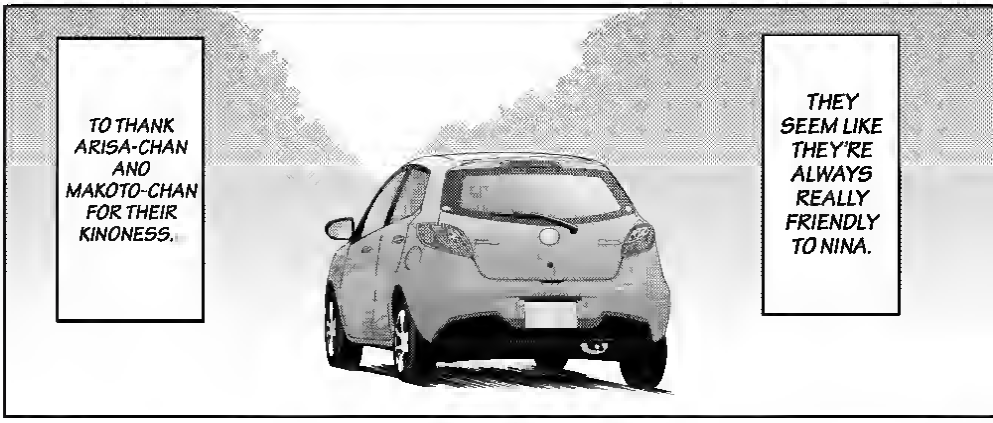

THE OTHER DAY...

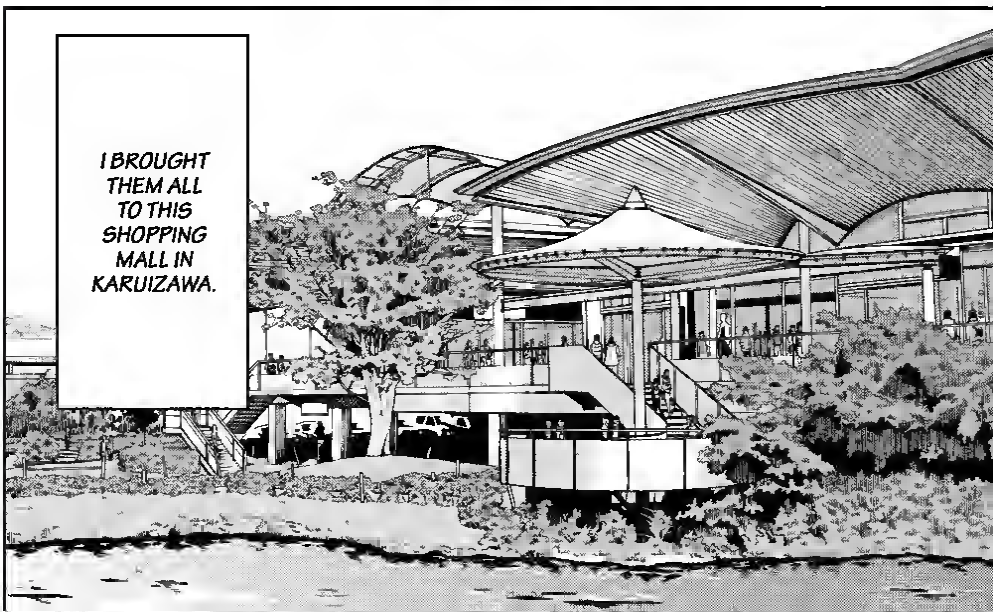
わかった わかった
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT
いいでしょ ねー!?
IT'S OKAY, RIGHT?
NINA TOLD YOU SHE WANTED TO GO SHOPPING WITH HER FRIENDS IN KARUIZAWA

HUH?
あれ？
HE'S NOT GROSS
キモくない
HE'S PRETTY NORMAL!
普通ね
?

HELLO
こんにちは
HELLO
こんにちは
HI THERE.
いらっしゃい

I THOUGHT IT WAS GOING TO BE A PAIN, BUT...


TO THANK ARISA-CHAN AND MAKOTO-CHAN FOR THEIR KINDNESS.
THEY SEEM LIKE THEY'RE ALWAYS REALLY FRIENDLY TO NINA.


I BROUGHT THEM ALL TO THIS SHOPPING MALL IN KARUIZAWA.

¥20 790
AH.
YEAH, THIS IS KARUIZAWA'S BIGGEST MALL.
Jeans
THERE ARE SO MANY STORES!
NINA, HOLD ON A SEC.
GRAB
WHAT'S THAT OVER THERE?

...
SORRY
WE'RE GONNA GET SEPARATED, AND YOU'RE GONNA GET LOST
IF YOU GO WANDERING OFF ON YOUR OWN,
HMM, IT LOOKS LIKE THERE ARE SOME PRETTY INTERESTING STORES IF WE GO THAT WAY
LET'S GO TOGET-HER
FOLLOW ME, EVERY-ONE
OKAY

IT'S JOULU, SHUTARO!
WOW...

FINNISH WORD FOR CHRISTMAS
IT'S THE...

HUH, WHAT'S JOULU?

AH, I SEE...
WE CALL SANTA CLAUS JOULU-PUKKI.

JOULUPUKKI IS SUCH A WEIRD NAME.
WHAT THE HECK?
なんじゃそりゃ
IT'S NOT WEIRD!
I SEE
BECAUSE WHEN YOU THINK OF SANTA CLAUS, YOU THINK OF FINLAND.
WHAT?
BECAUSE SANTA CLAUS...
IS IN FINLAND.
HUH
IT'S TRUE!
...

SANTA CLAUS ORIGINATED FROM FINLAND,
AND ALL OF THE LETTERS THAT CHILDREN FROM AROUND THE WORLD WRITE TO SANTA GET DELIVERED TO SANTA CLAUS' POST OFFICE IN FINLAND.
WHAT NINA'S SAYING ISN'T TECHNICALLY WRONG.
EH?

AND IF YOU TWO AREN'T GOOD GIRLS,
SANTA-SAN WON'T COME VISIT YOU.
R-RIGHT.
HE'S MORE LIKE A FAIRY, RIGHT?
SO, DOES THAT MEAN THAT SANTA CLAUS IS A FINNISH PERSON?

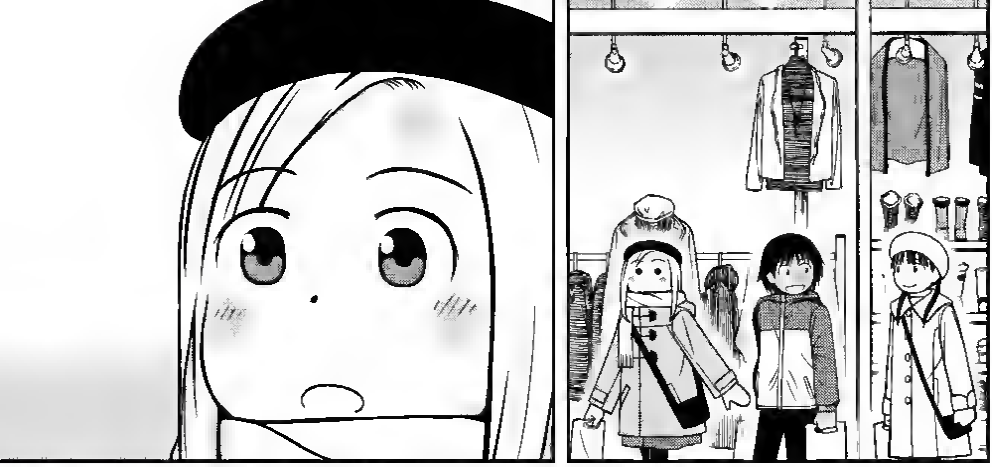
LOOK, YOU TWO!
THERE ARE TONS OF STICKERS HERE
YOU'RE RIGHT

LET'S BUY LOTS OF STICKERS AND PUT THEM INTO OUR PURI-KURA ALBUMS!
OKAY

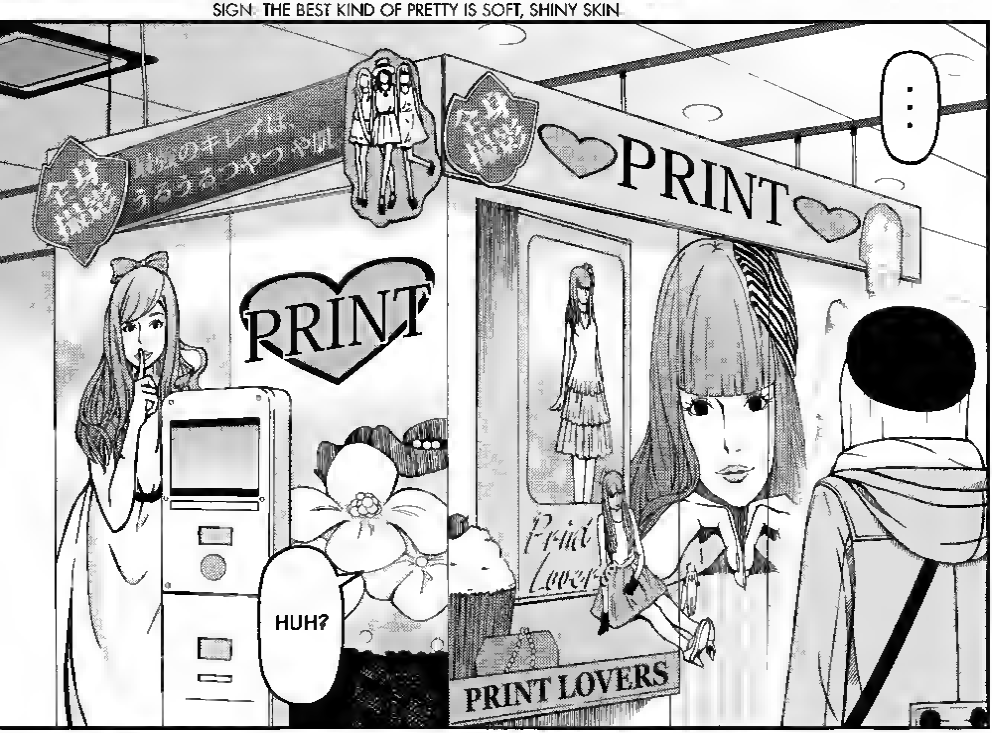
THESE ARE BETTER!
こっちの方がいいだろ!!
NO WAY!
イヤよそんなの!!

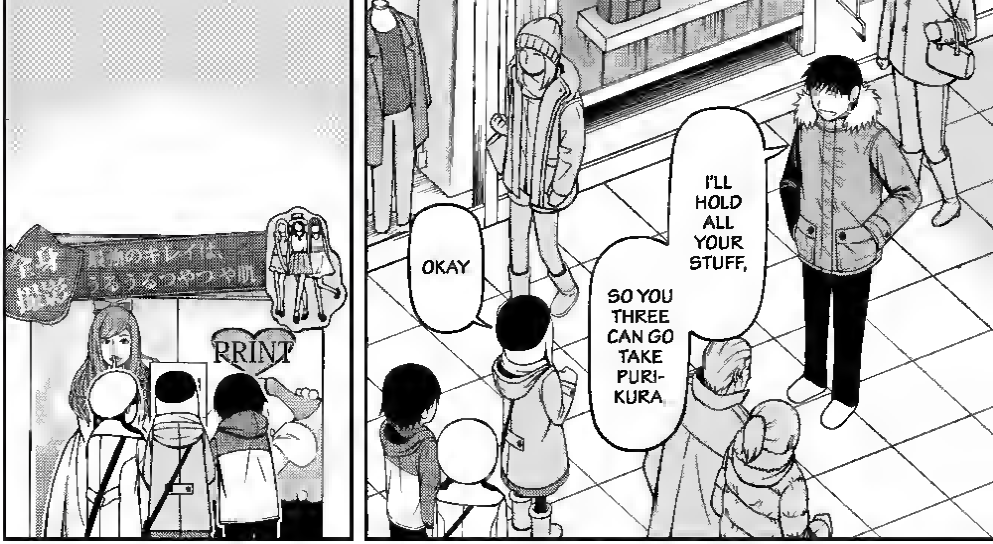
SO CUTE!
かわいい

LET'S GO GET AN EARLY LUNCH.
OKAY.
RUMBLE

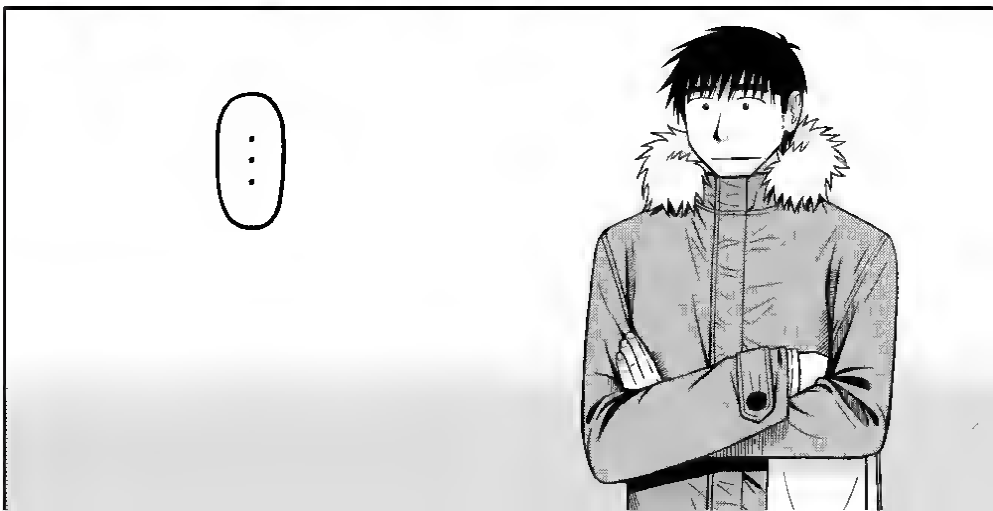


SIGN: THE BEST KIND OF PRETTY IS SOFT, SHINY SKIN




PRINT
I'LL HOLD ALL YOUR STUFF,
SO YOU THREE CAN GO TAKE PURI-KURA
OKAY

Winter
WOW, SO COOL!
スゴイ!!
YOU'RE RIGHT.
ホントだ
IT SAYS THIS ONE'S ONLY IN KARUI-ZAWA
軽井沢限定だって
ale

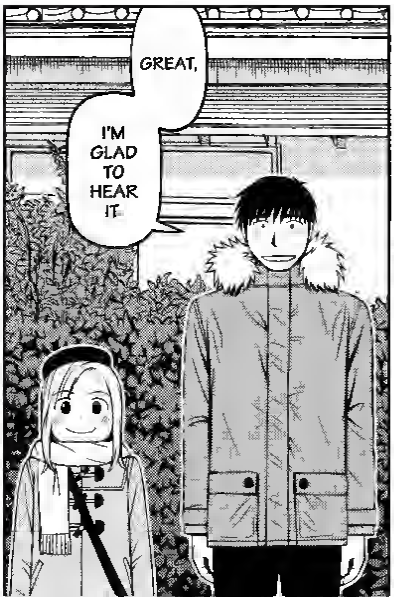

・・・

IT SEEMS THAT NINA...
HAS BEEN ACCEPTED BY HER CLASSMATES AFTER ALL.

OR RATHER...

SHE SEEMS TO...
ALREADY BE THE CENTER OF ATTENTION.

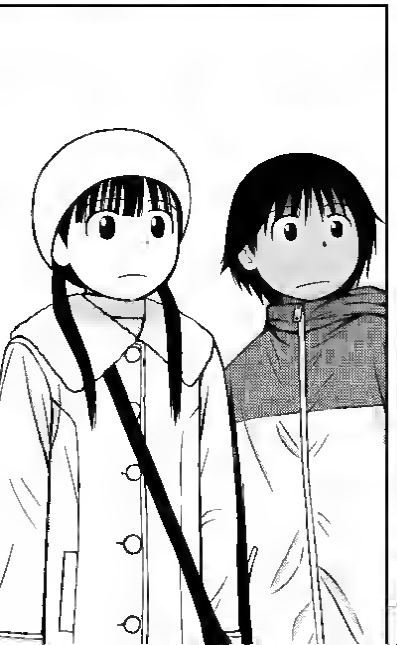
PRINT
NINA IS FINE
ニーナは大丈夫だ…
YEAH.
うん


GREAT,
I'M GLAD TO HEAR IT.

IT WAS A LOT OF FUN.
THANKS SO MUCH FOR TODAY

WASN'T IT FUN TO TAKE ALL THOSE PURIKURA?
YEAH.
IT WAS.

WELL, WE'RE GONNA HEAD HOME NOW.
HAVE A SAFE TRIP!



あの…
UM…
PLEASE CONTINUE BEING NICE TO NINA

OH, I ALMOST FORGOT…

YES?

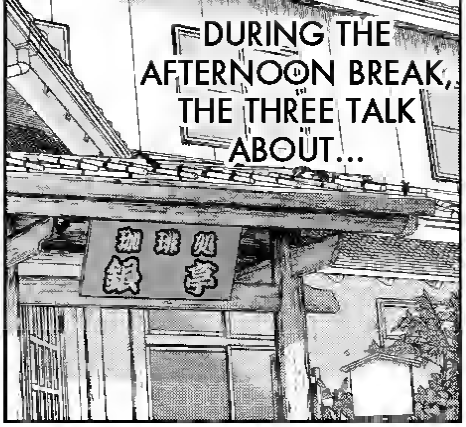
GREAT ANSWERS FEEL SO GOOD, DON'T THEY?

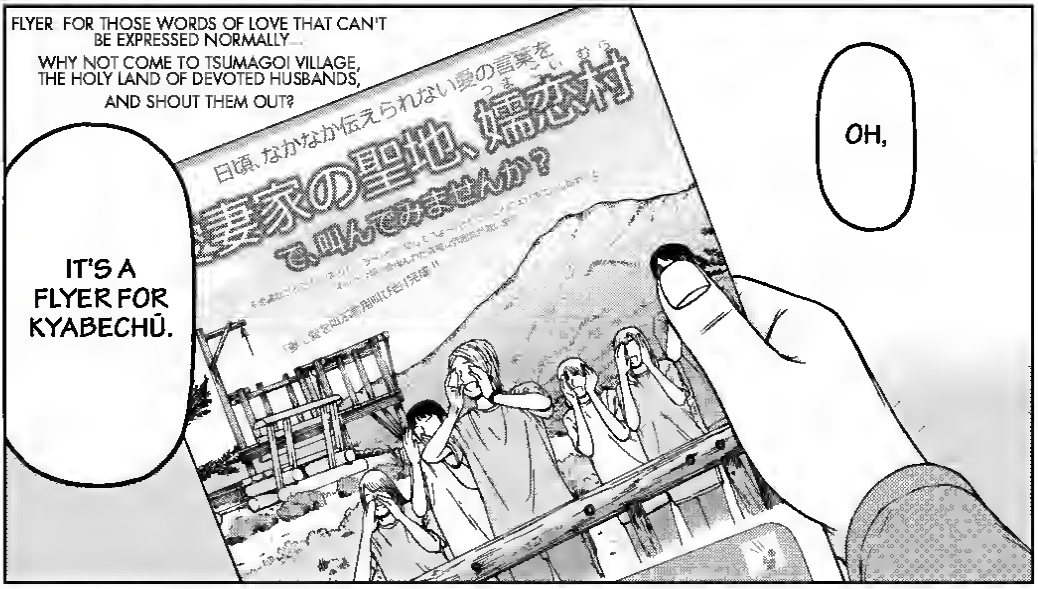
CHAPTER 47

SHOUTING MY LOVE

THE PRECIOUS THINGS YOU CAN LEARN ON A DAY TRIP...

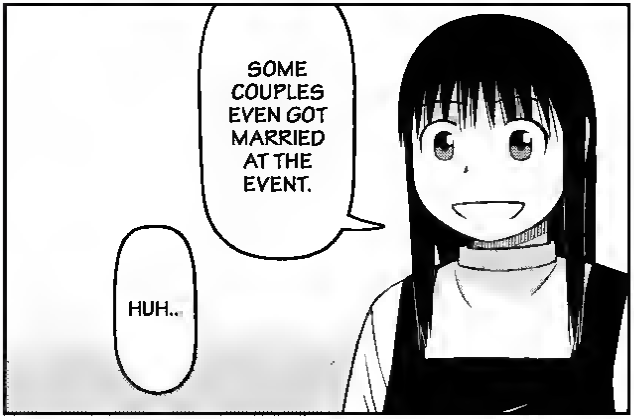
SOMEONE FORGOT SOMETHING.
SHUTARO.


DURING THE AFTERNOON BREAK, THE THREE TALK ABOUT...
珈琲処 銀亭

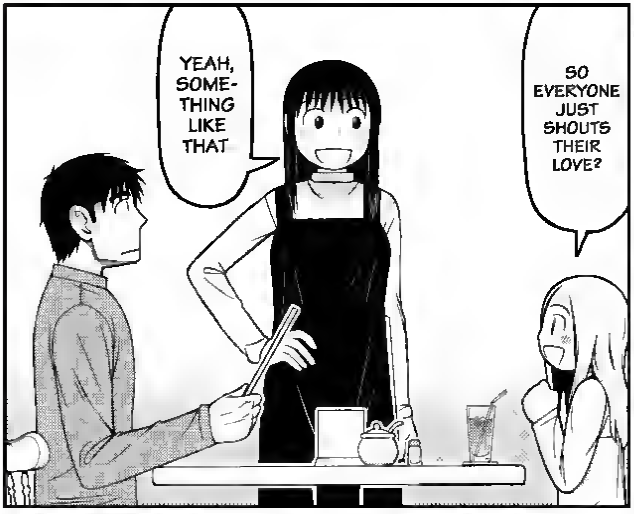

FLYER FOR THOSE WORDS OF LOVE THAT CAN'T BE EXPRESSED NORMALLY...
WHY NOT COME TO TSUMAGOI VILLAGE, THE HOLY LAND OF DEVOTED HUSBANDS, AND SHOUT THEM OUT?
日頃、なかなか伝えられない愛の言葉を
妻家の聖地、嬬恋村
で、叫んでみませんか？
OH,
IT'S A FLYER FOR KYABECHŪ.

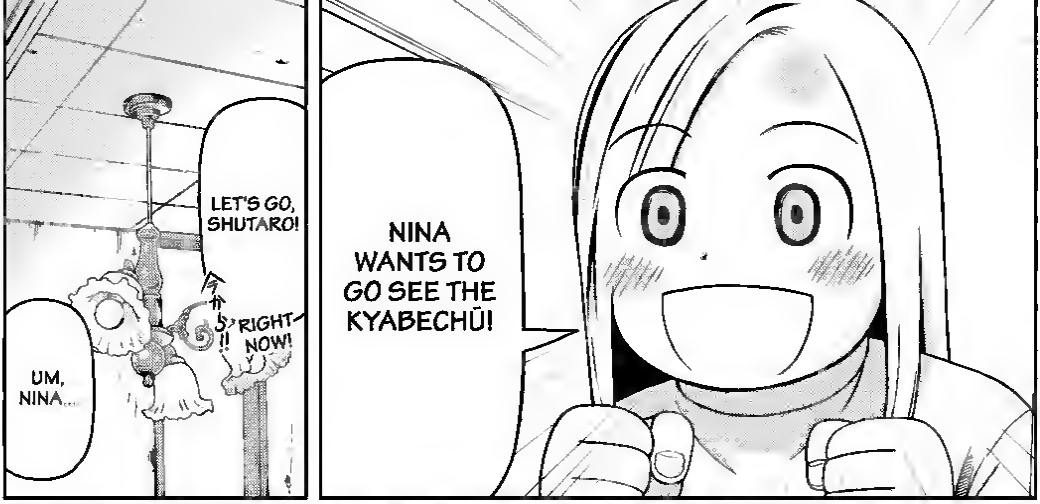
IT'S JUST ANOTHER WAY TO REVIVE A VILLAGE.
HUH.
ALSO KNOWN AS KYABE-CHŪ
WHEN PEOPLE GO OUT INTO CABBAGE PATCHES AND LOUDLY DECLARE THEIR LOVE FOR THEIR WIVES
KYABE-CHŪ?

YEAH.
YOU'VE GONE AND WATCHED THIS BEFORE, RIGHT, TOMOE?


SOME COUPLES EVEN GOT MARRIED AT THE EVENT.
HUH..

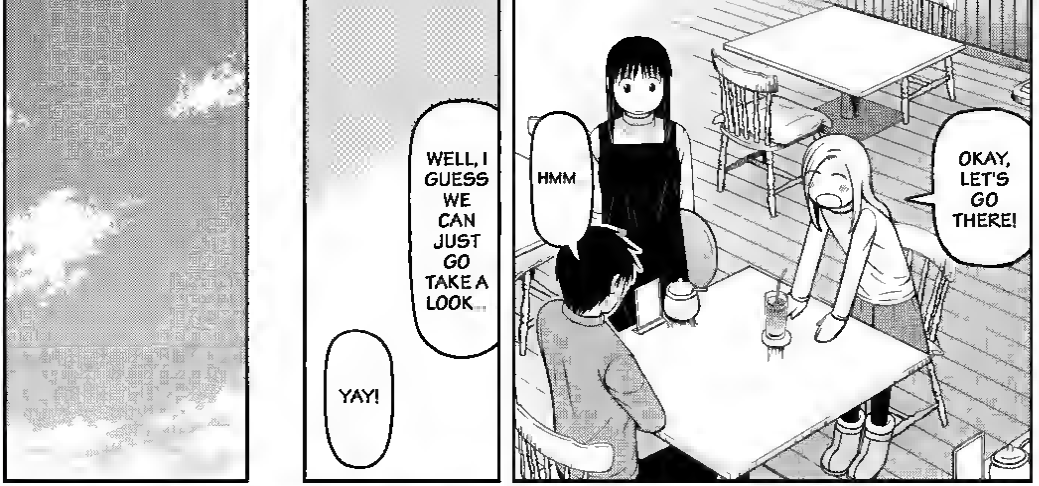
I JUST TAGGED ALONG WITH MY MARRIED FRIENDS WHEN THEY WENT...
THERE WERE LOTS OF PEOPLE, AND FOOD STANDS, SO I GUESS YOU COULD SAY IT WAS PRETTY LIVELY

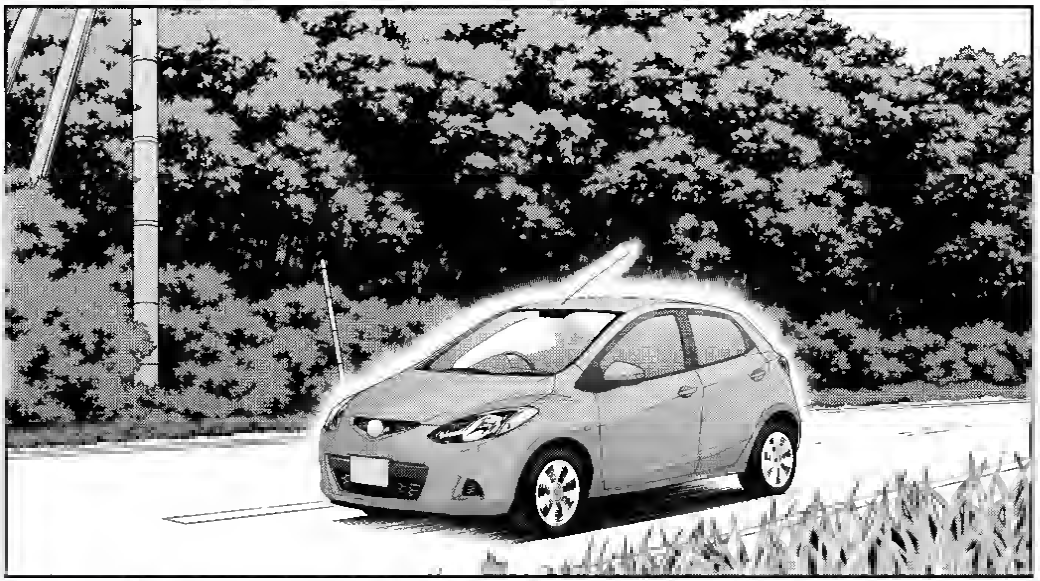

YEAH, SOMETHING LIKE THAT
SO EVERYONE JUST SHOUTS THEIR LOVE?



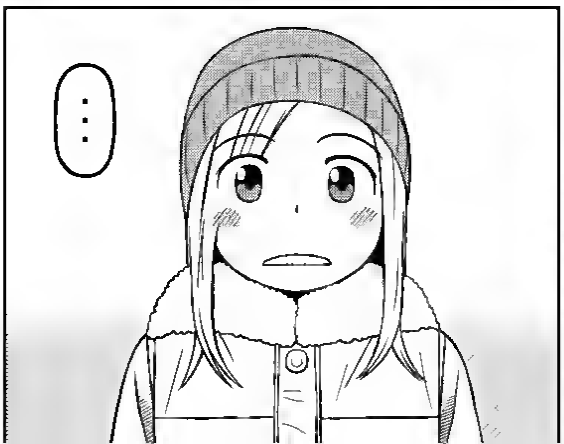
*DEVOTED HUSBANDS' HILL

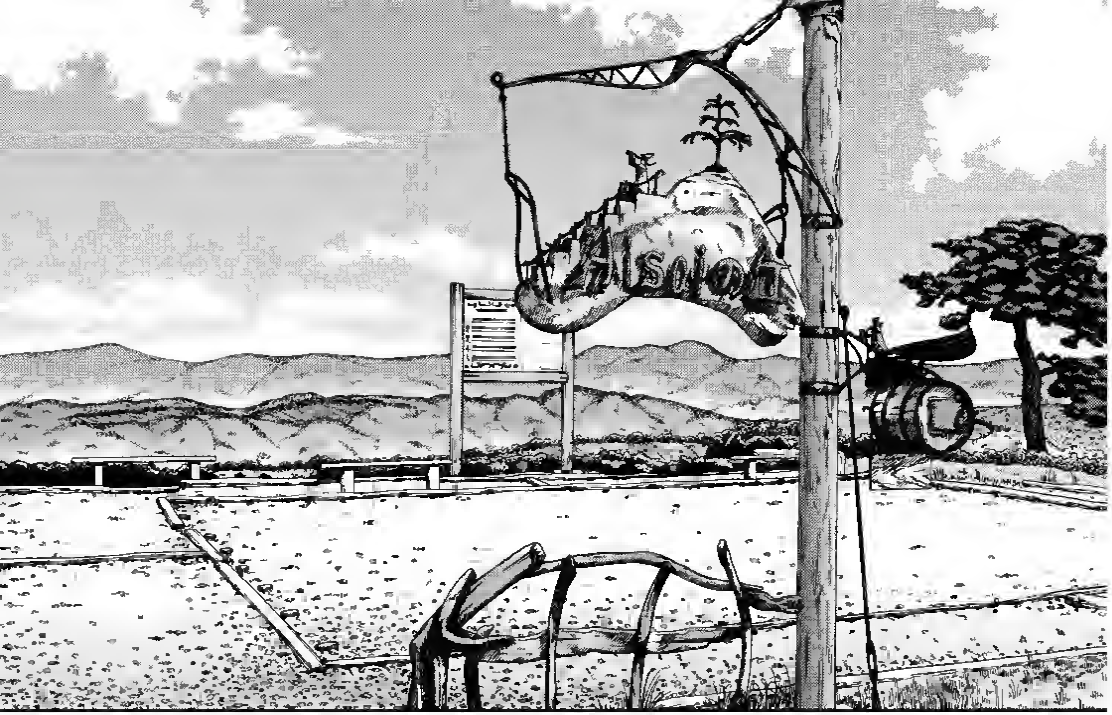
SHU,
WHY DON'T YOU JUST TAKE HER TO AISAI NO OKA*?
YOU CAN USE YOUR MOM'S CAR, RIGHT?
おばさんの車使ってもいいんでしょ?
AISAI NO OKA?
WHERE THEY DO THE KYABECHŪ

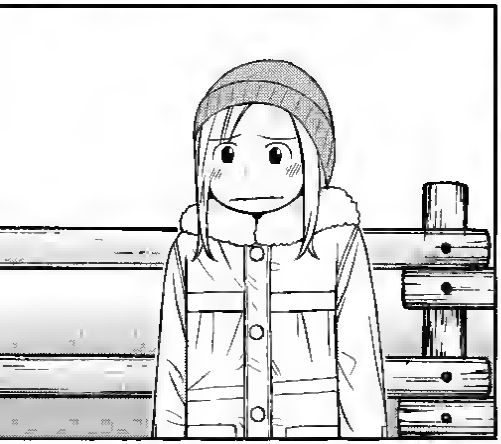




SIGN: TSUMAGOI PANORAMA LINE ROUTE



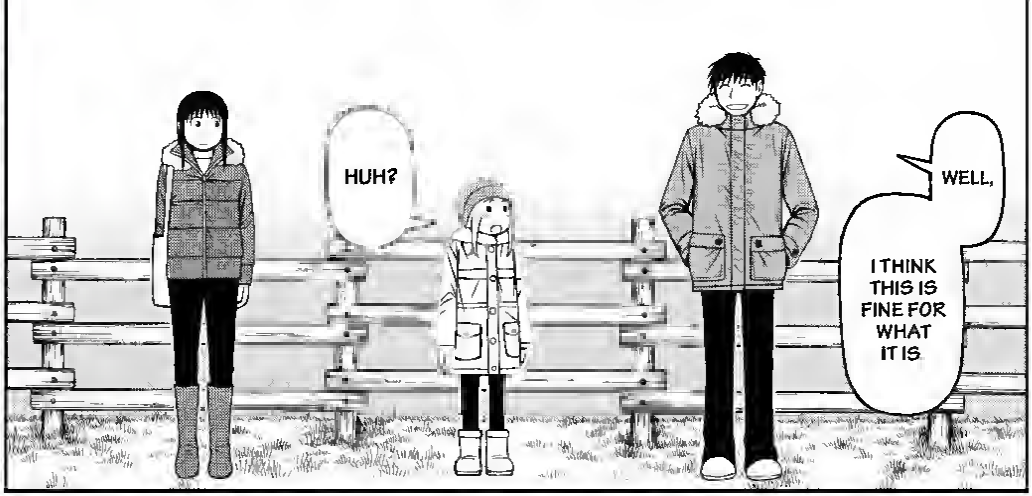


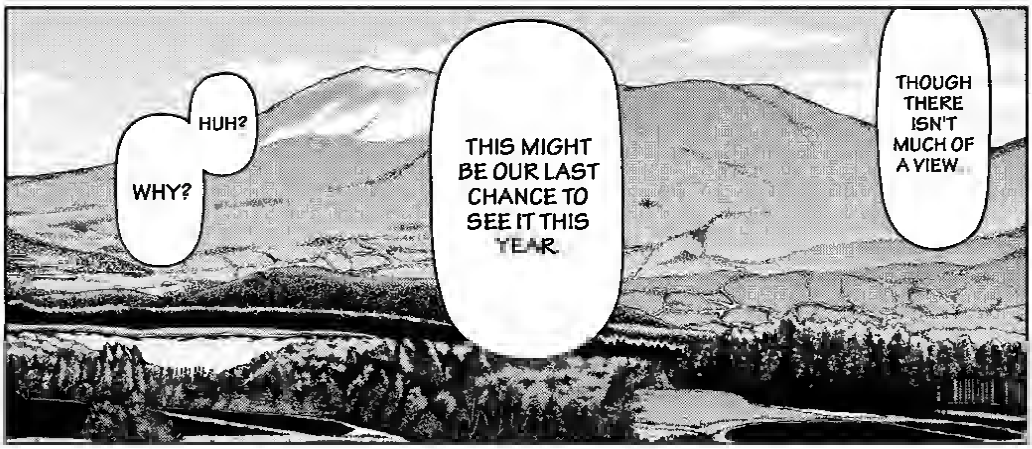


THIS IS AISAI NO OKA?
YEAH

HEH...
THIS IS DIFFERENT FROM WHAT NINA IMAGINED

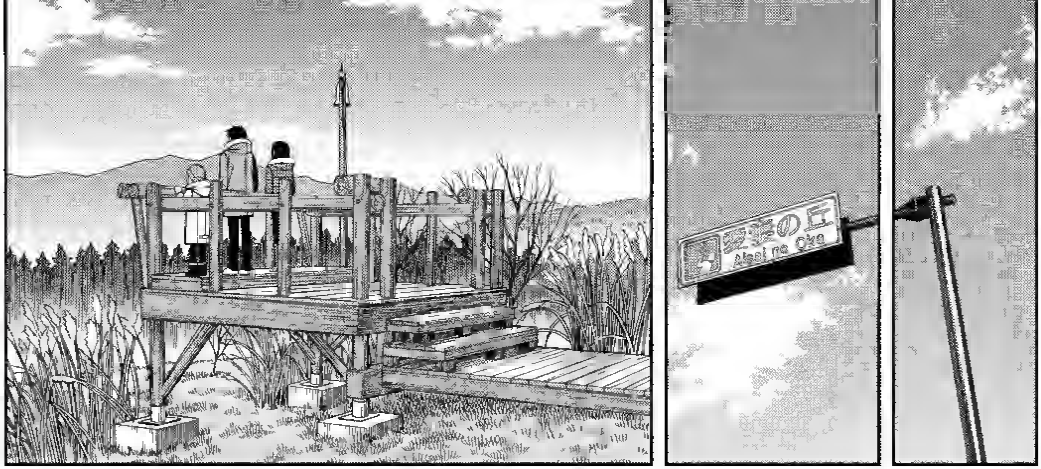
UM..
THIS MIGHT BE LAME, BUT IT'S NOT MY FAULT!
THIS REALLY IS JUST AN ORDINARY HILL
...
THIS PLACE IS PRETTY POPULAR IN THE SUMMER, TOO
A LOT OF MOTOR-CYCLE TOURS COME THROUGH HERE.
Aisai no Oka

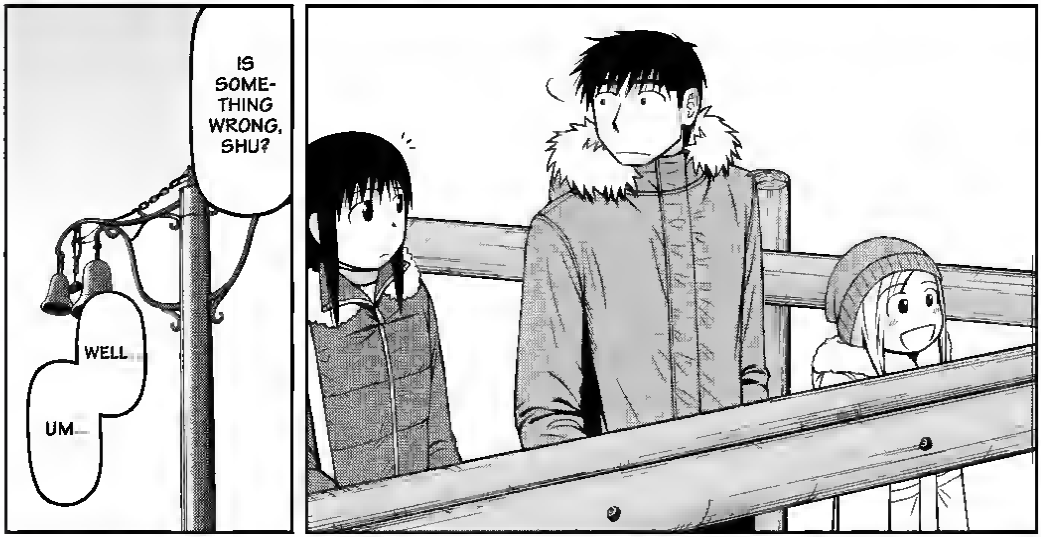

HUH?
WELL,
I THINK THIS IS FINE FOR WHAT IT IS

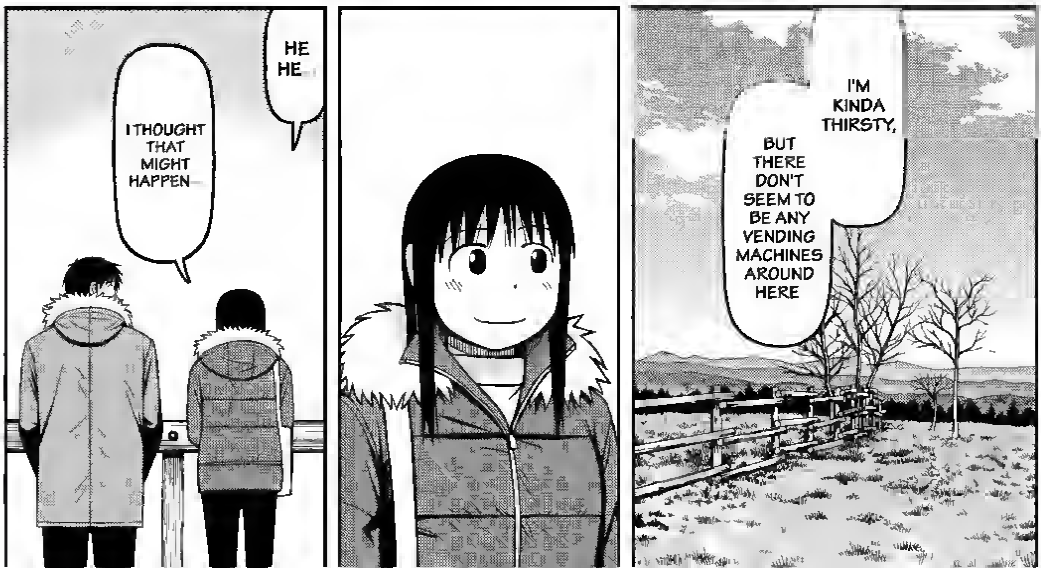

HUH?
WHY?
THIS MIGHT BE OUR LAST CHANCE TO SEE IT THIS YEAR.
THOUGH THERE ISN'T MUCH OF A VIEW...

YEAH
SO ACTUALLY, DON'T YOU THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA WE CAME?

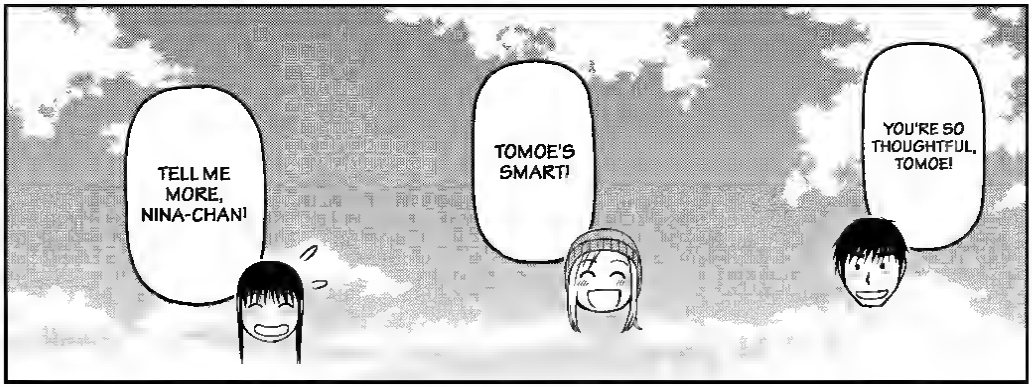
SO CARS AREN'T ABLE TO COME HERE
THEY ALWAYS BLOCK OFF THESE ROADS IN DECEMBER.


Aisai no Oka


IS SOME-THING WRONG, SHU?
WELL... UM...

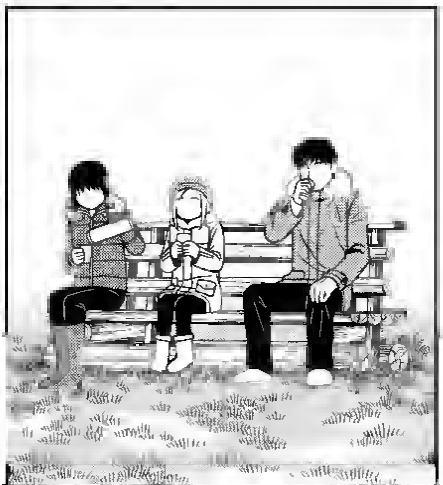

HE HE
I THOUGHT THAT MIGHT HAPPEN
I'M KINDA THIRSTY, BUT THERE DON'T SEEM TO BE ANY VENDING MACHINES AROUND HERE

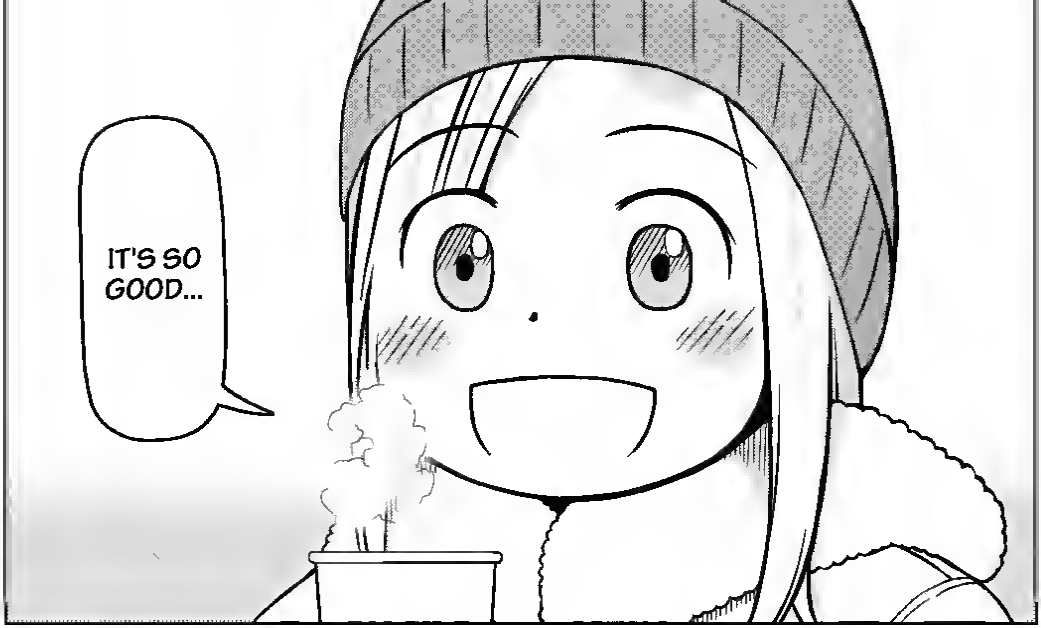
TA-DA!
ジャーン
SO I BROUGHT SOME HOT BLACK TEA.
OOH.

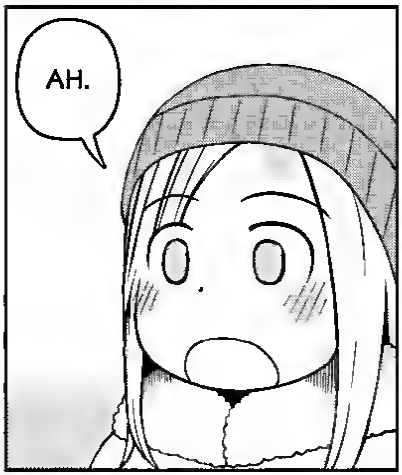

TELL ME MORE, NINA-CHAN!
TOMOE'S SMART!
YOU'RE SO THOUGHTFUL, TOMOE!

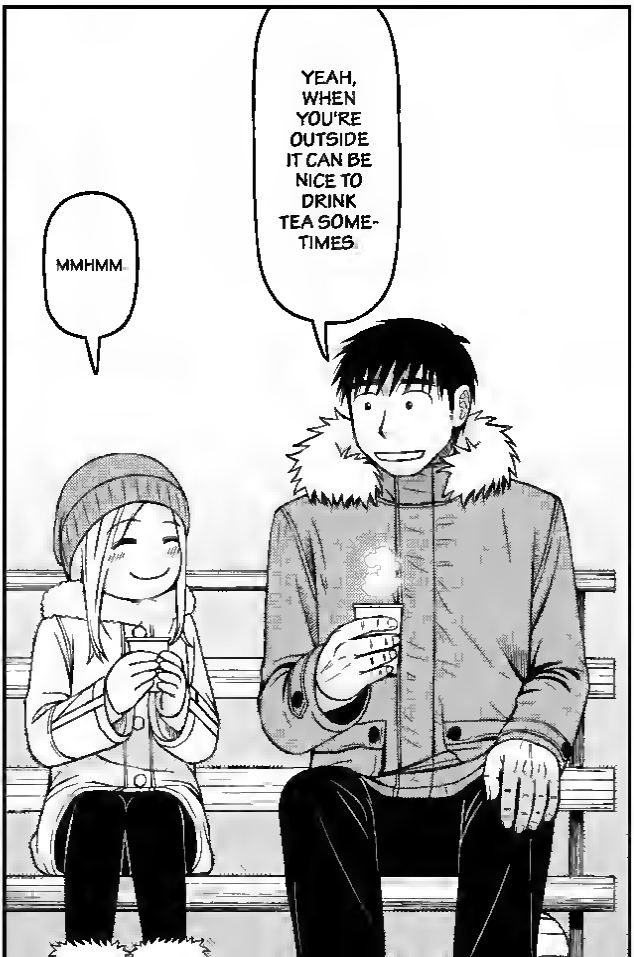
SIGH
は〜っ

SIP
ズズズ…



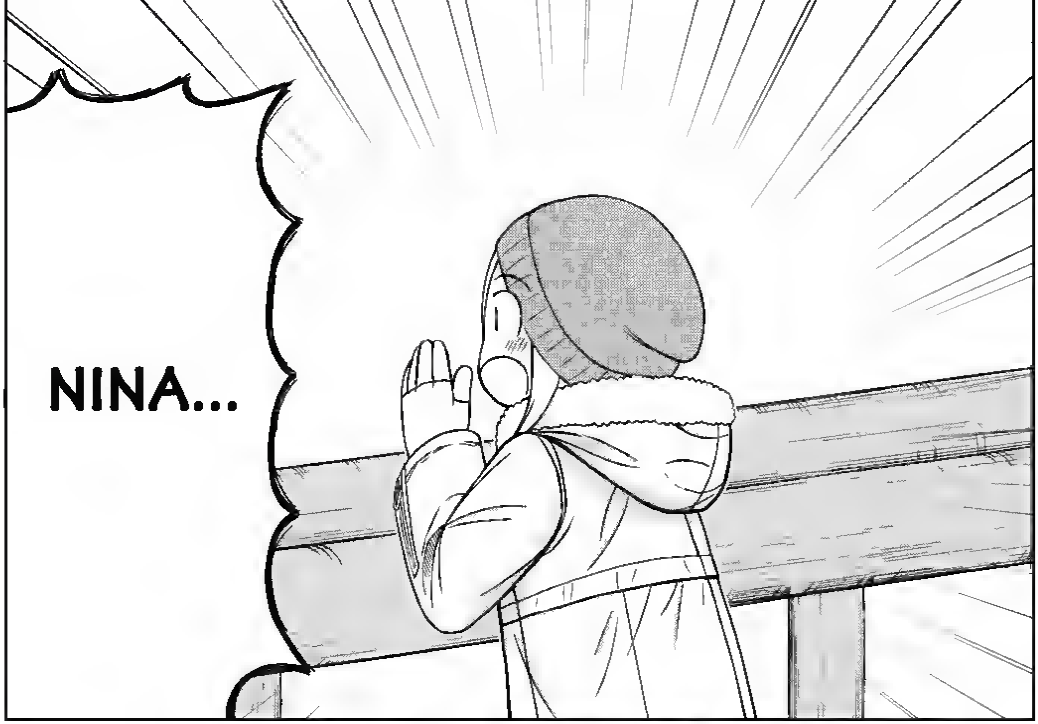

IT'S SO GOOD...

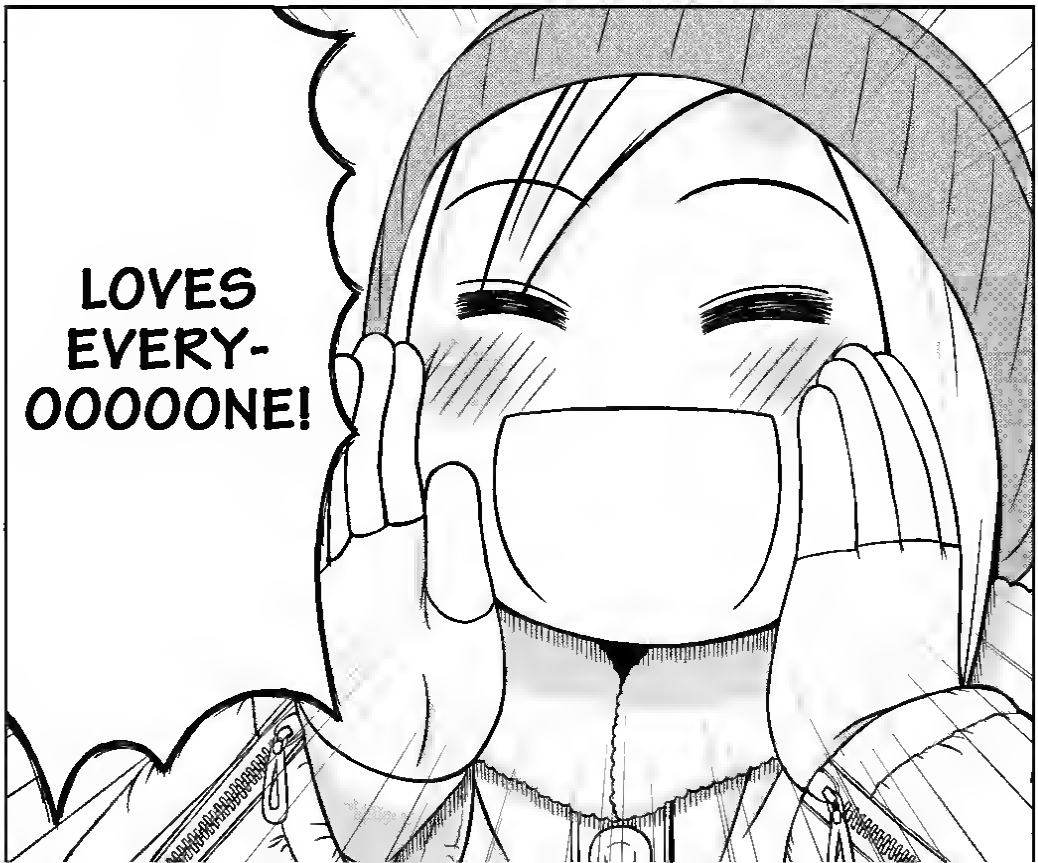

AH.


YEAH, WHEN YOU'RE OUTSIDE IT CAN BE NICE TO DRINK TEA SOME-TIMES.
MMHMM.

SHUTARO, IS THIS ELEGANCE?
YEAH.

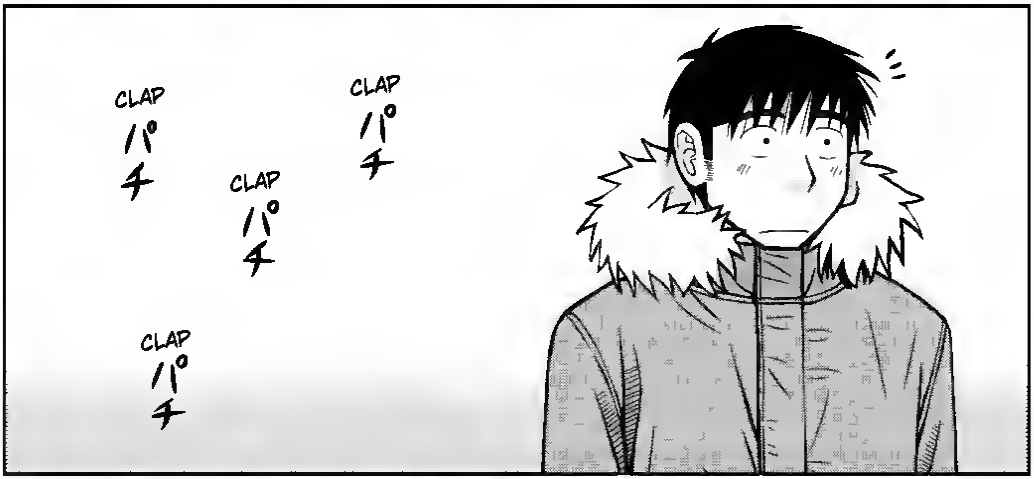
HUH?
NINA'S GONNA SHOUT
SOME-THING ABOUT LOVE, TOO, OKAY?
NINA KNOWS
SUUU


NINA...

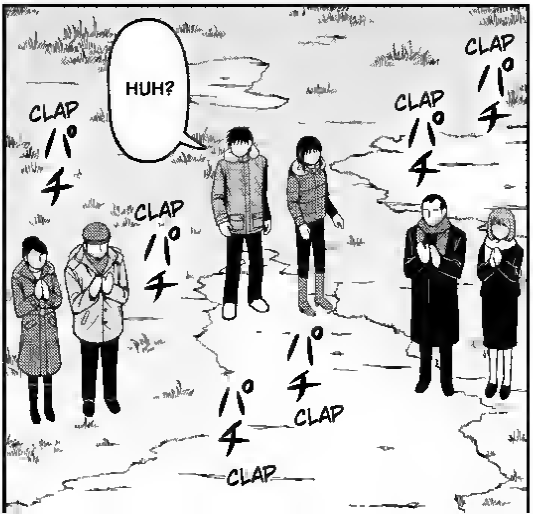

LOVES EVERY-OOOOONE!

THAT'S OUR NINA.

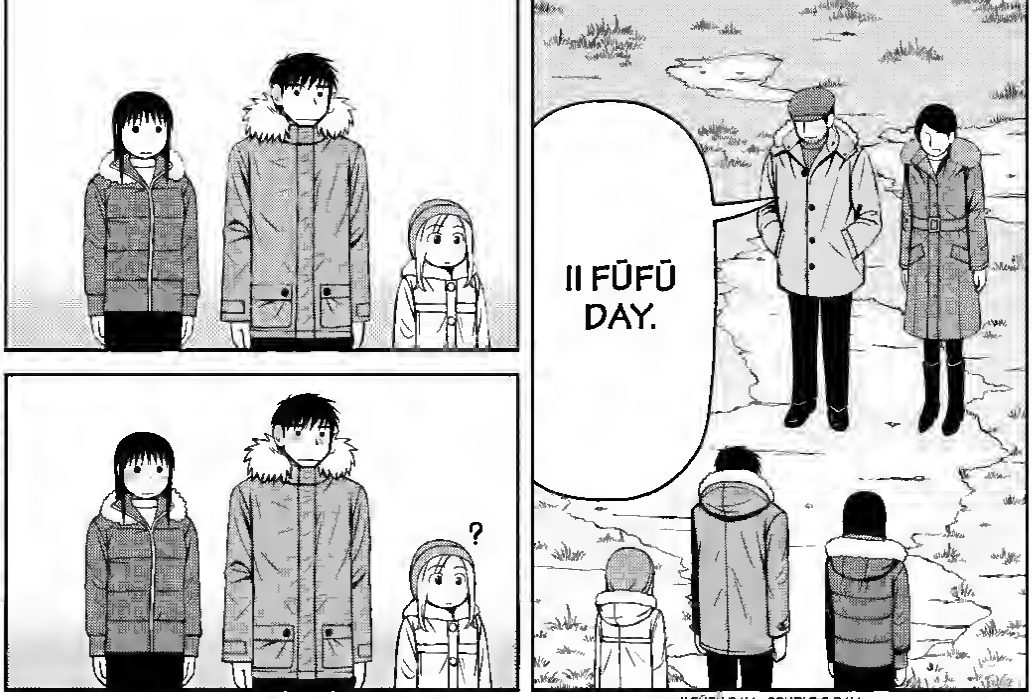
HA HA


CLAP パチ
CLAP パチ
CLAP パチ
CLAP パチ

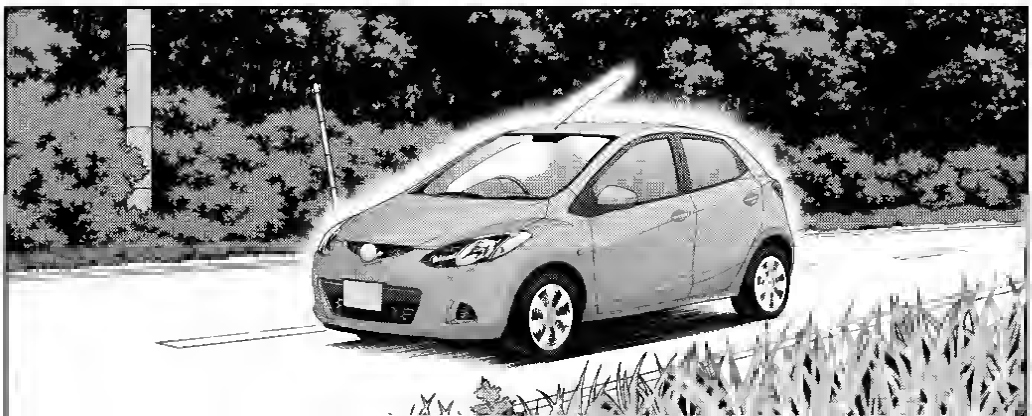
WHEN DID THEY GET HERE?


HUH?
CLAP パチ
CLAP パチ
CLAP パチ
CLAP パチ
CLAP パチ
CLAP パチ
CLAP

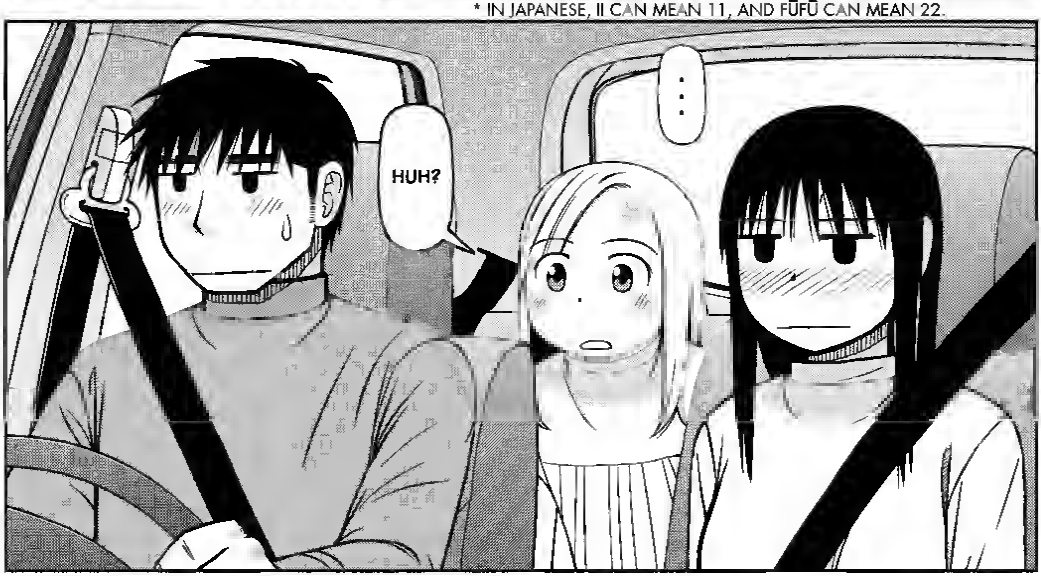
THAT WAS EXCELLENT
THAT PROCLA-MATION OF LOVE YOU MADE BACK THERE...
NOT EXACTLY...
NO...
ARE YOU TWO MARRIED?
WELL, THAT'S BECAUSE TODAY'S...
OH,
BUT WHY ARE THERE SO MANY PEOPLE HERE?
THIS MIGHT BE AN AWKWARD QUESTION...
UM...

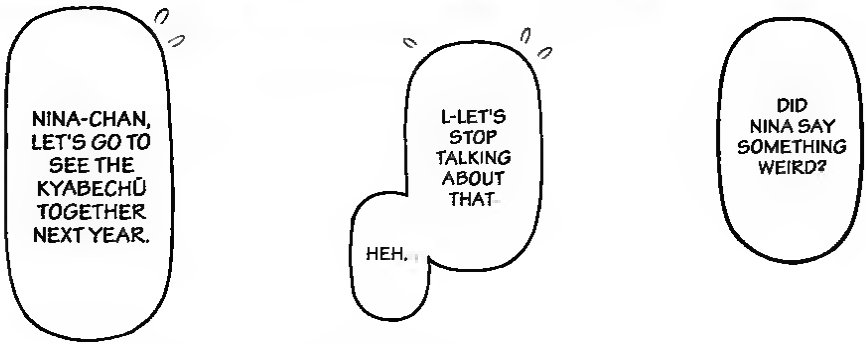


II FŪFŪ DAY= COUPLE'S DAY



* IN JAPANESE, II CAN MEAN 11, AND FŪFŪ CAN MEAN 22.





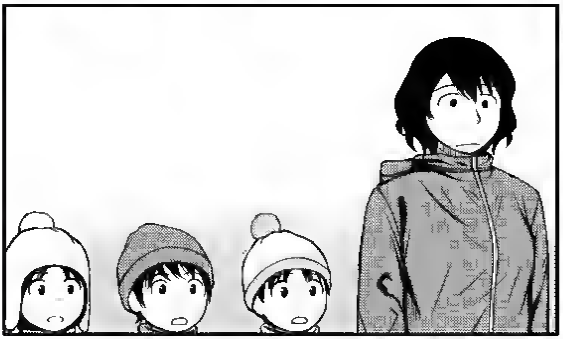
IT ENDED UP BEING A DRIVE WITH SOME AWKWARDNESS IN THE AIR!

CHAPTER 48

FRIENDS ON ICE

PARTAKING IN POPULAR WINTER SPORTS...

COULD THAT ELEGANT DANCER BE THE FAIRY OF KITA-KARIUZAWA?



SNAP

おーーーーっ
WHOOOOOOAAAAA!
CLAP
パチ

YOU'D LOOK EVEN MORE AMAZING IF YOU WEREN'T DRESSED LIKE THAT
YOU'RE LIKE AN ICE FAIRY!
YOU'RE AMAZING, NINA-CHAN!
CLAP
パチ

WHY ARE YOU SO GOOD AT ICE SKATING, NINA-CHAN?
SLIDE

I GUESS THAT'S HOW IT WORKS WHEN YOUR COUNTRY'S KNOWN FOR WINTER SPORTS

WHEN SHE WAS IN FINLAND
NINA HAD A LOT OF PRACTICE

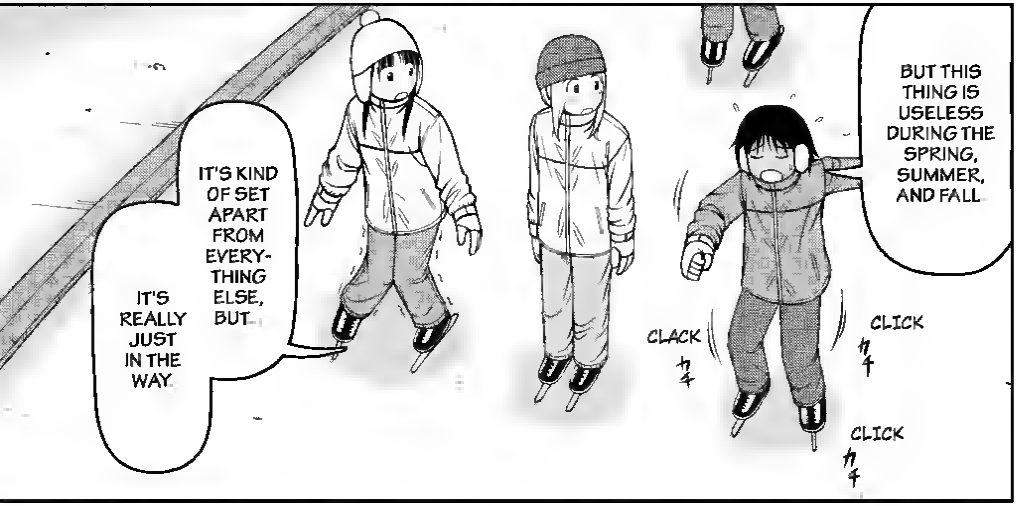
EH?
THAT'S SUCH A LAME EXCUSE.
I-
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF I CAN SKATE WELL
I JUST HAVE TO BE ABLE TO TEACH YOU WELL

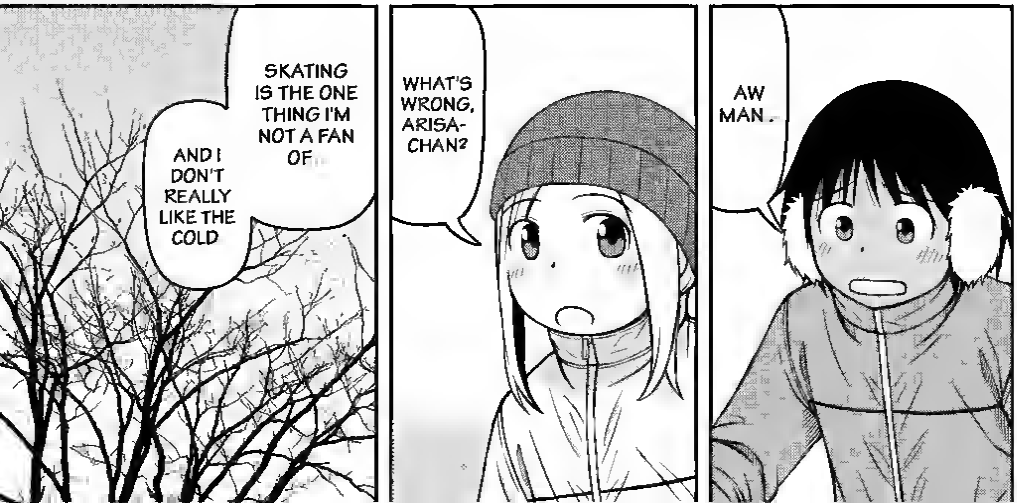
HEH, I THINK NINA-CHAN MIGHT ACTUALLY BE BETTER AT SKATING THAN SENSEI.
WHAT?!

...

OKAY, LET'S ALL HEAD TO THE RINK SO WE CAN GET STARTED.
IT ISN'T FAIR IF YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE USING YOUR OWN SKATES. SO PLEASE USE THESE INSTEAD.
OKAY
はいっ
THAT'S ONE STRIKE FOR NAKAMURA.
RUDE!
ひどっ
IF YOU CAN'T STAND UP, USE A CHAIR
立てられない人はイスを使いなさい
YEAH, WE'RE KNOWN FOR IT.
IT'S AWESOME THAT OUR SCHOOL HAS A SKATING RINK.

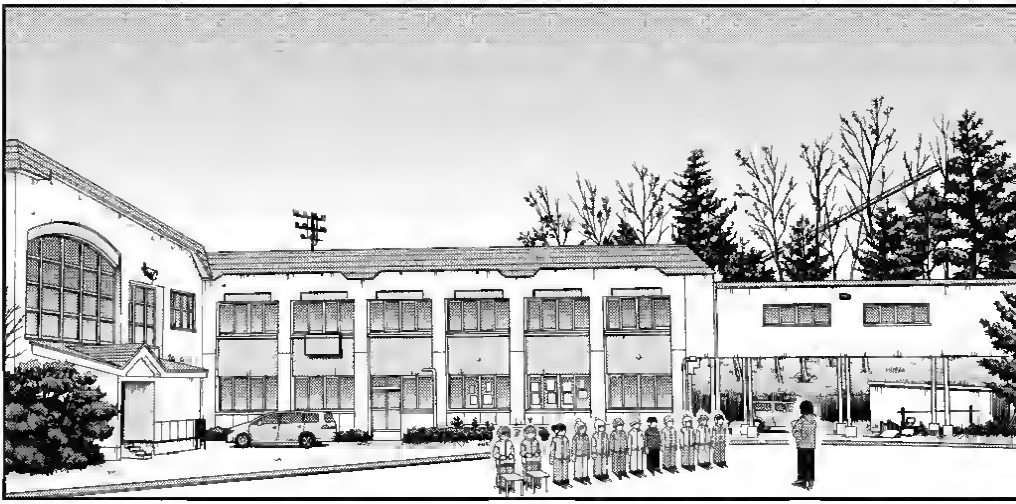
IF THEY FILL THIS POOL WITH WATER, IT FREEZES THE NEXT DAY.
THAT'S WHY WE'RE ABLE TO USE IT AS A SKATING RINK.


BUT THIS THING IS USELESS DURING THE SPRING, SUMMER, AND FALL.
IT'S KIND OF SET APART FROM EVERY-THING ELSE, BUT...
IT'S REALLY JUST IN THE WAY.
CLACK
CLICK
CLICK


SKATING IS THE ONE THING I'M NOT A FAN OF.
AND I DON'T REALLY LIKE THE COLD
WHAT'S WRONG, ARISA-CHAN?
AW MAN.

KOHINATA, YOU'RE JUST BAD AT ALL SPORTS

I-I DON'T, EITHER.



OKAY, NOW...

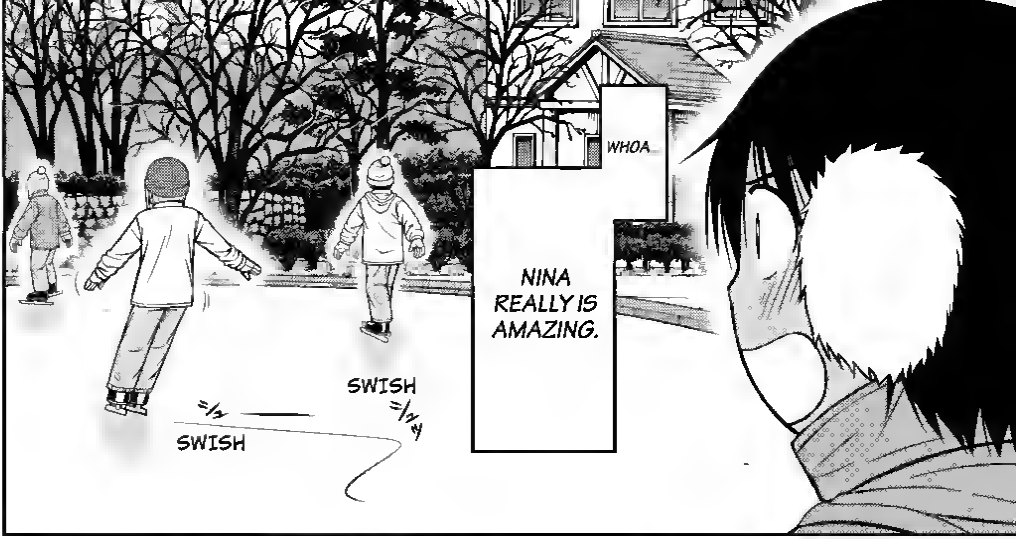
EACH OF YOU SHOULD INDIVIDUALLY SKATE AROUND THE RINK THREE TIMES

はーい OKAAAAAY

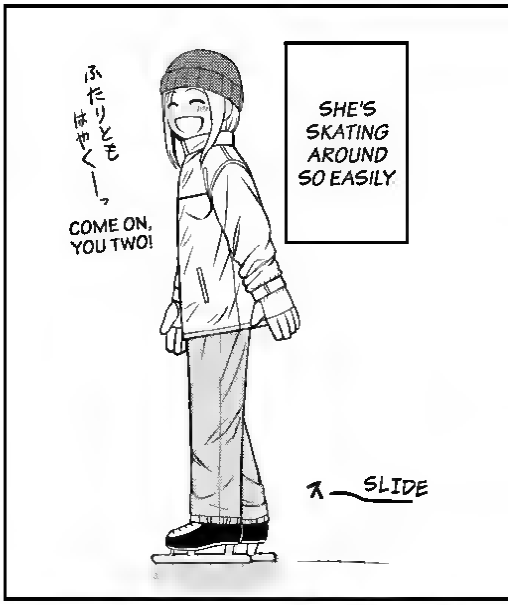
SINCE YOU TWO AREN'T ABLE TO SKATE AT ALL, JUST KEEP PRACTICING OVER THERE

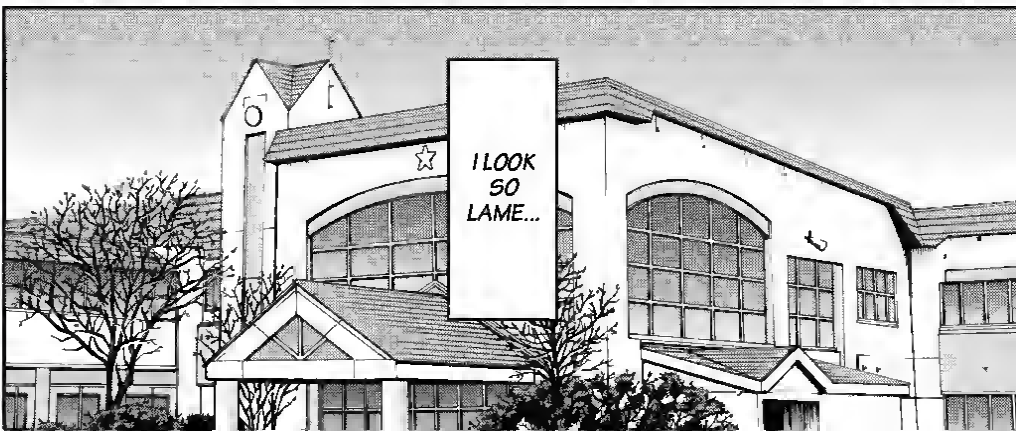
はーい YEP

OKAY
SURE
ARISA-CHAN, MAKOTO-CHAN...
LET'S GO!
SLIDE


WHOA
NINA REALLY IS AMAZING.
SWISH
SWISH

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RINK.
CLACK
CLICK
CLICK

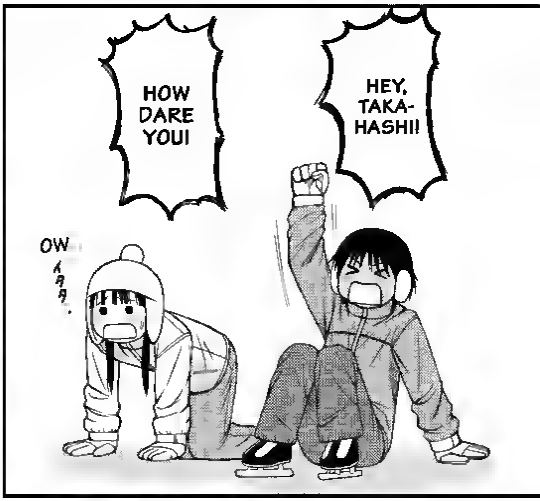

SHE'S SKATING AROUND SO EASILY
ふたりともはやくー！
COME ON, YOU TWO!
SLIDE

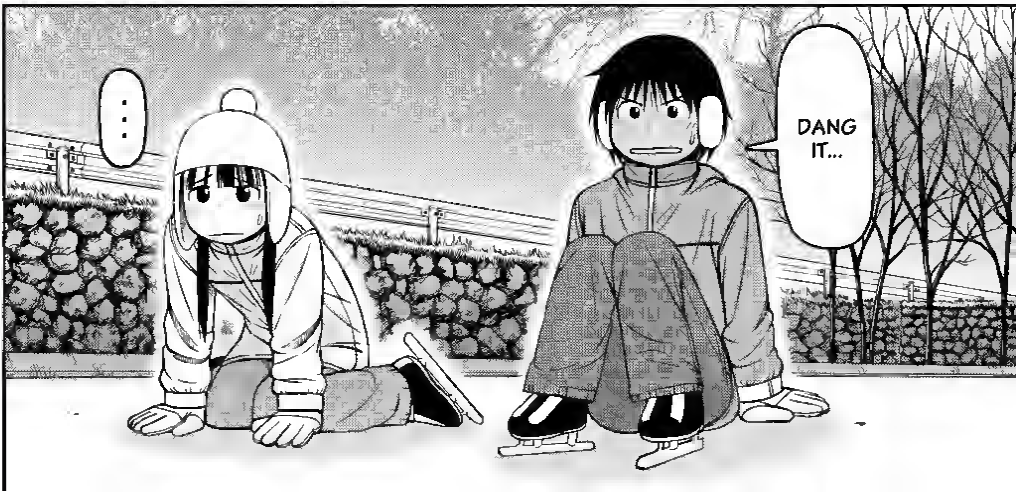

I LOOK SO LAME...

SLIDE
HOLD ON A MINUTE
WAIT...
I-
I CAN SKATE A LITTLE BIT...
GO GET TRAINED BY SENSEI
先生の特訓コース行けよ
Y'KNOW, YOU SHOULD JUST HEAD OVER TO WHERE THE OTHER BEGIN-NERS ARE
OUT OF THE WAY, YOU TWO!
EH?
WHISH
シャーッ

BAM
EEK!
WHOA!

YOU SUCK!

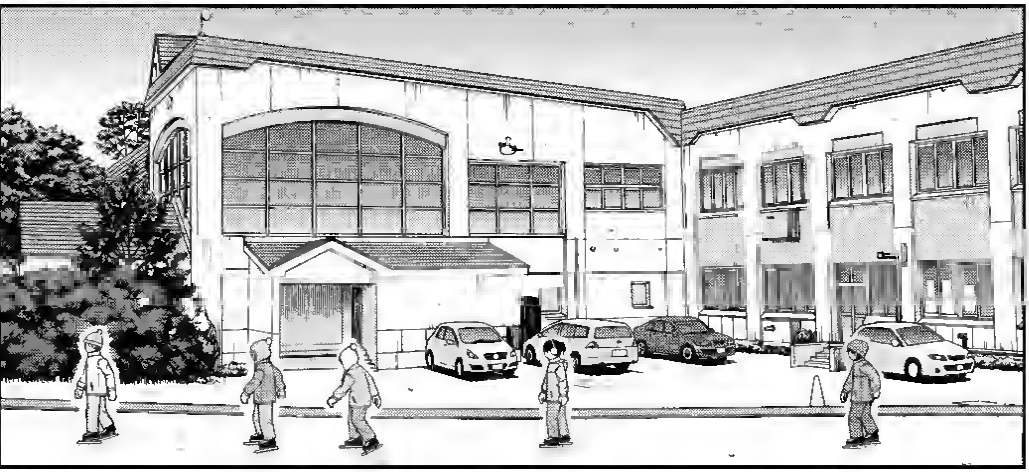

HOW DARE YOU!
HEY, TAKA-HASHI!
OW

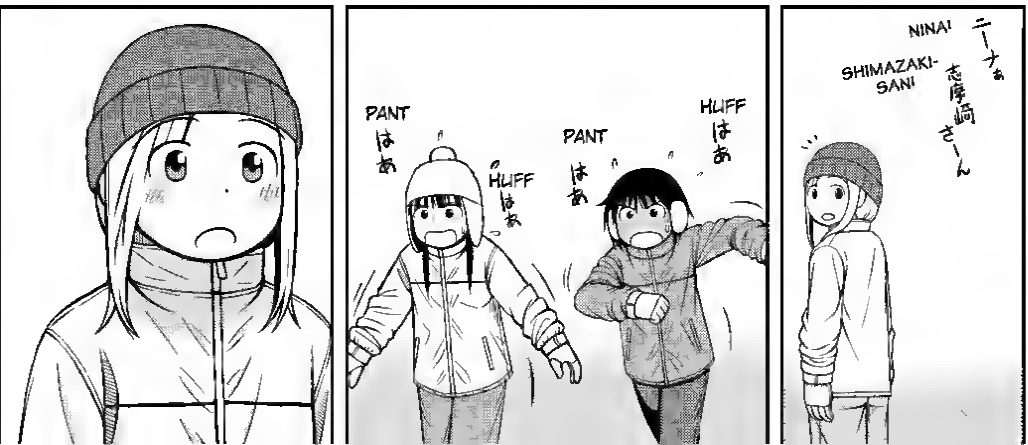

...
DANG IT...

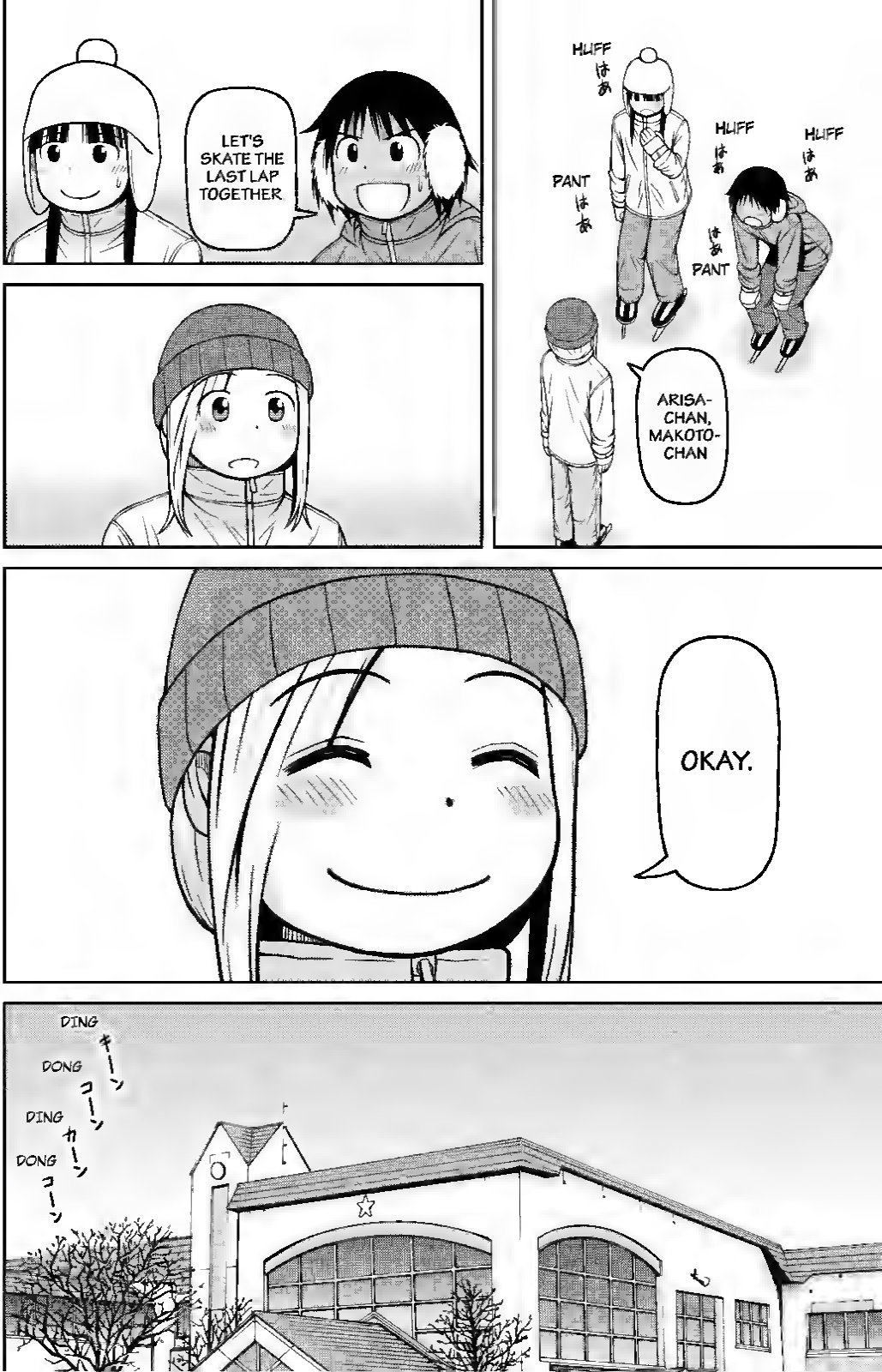
YOU'RE REALLY GOOD AT SKATING, TAKAHASHI-KUN
WHOA
うぉっ
SWISH
THAT'S NOT TRUE
I'M NO MATCH FOR YOU, THOUGH
YEAH, BUT
Y-
YOU THINK SO?
YOU'RE THE BEST OUT OF THE BOYS

HMM, YEAH
GETTING ALONG BECAUSE THEY CAN BOTH SKATE WELL.
NINA AND TAKA-HASHI SEEM TO BE
...
BOY IN OUR CLASS
OH, REALLY?
へーそうなんだ
BUT HE'S THE MOST GROSS AND ANNOY-ING...
HUH?
LET'S GO, KOHI-NATA!

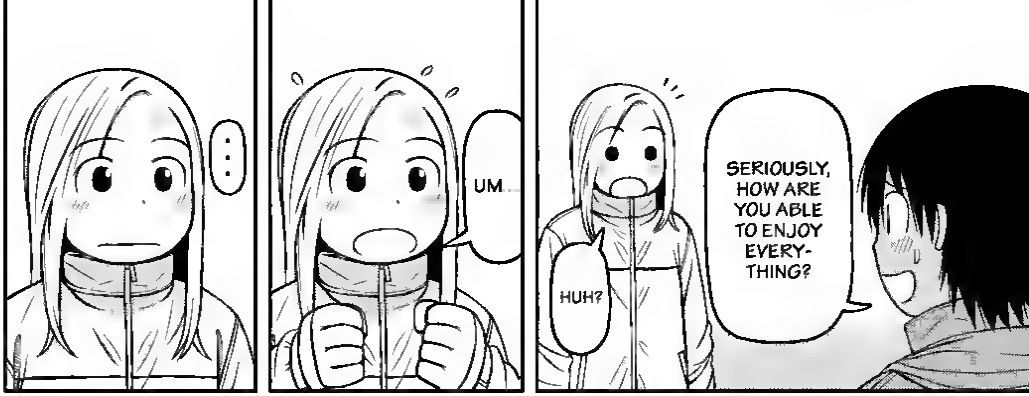
LET'S DO OUR BEST...
TO SKATE AS WELL AS TAKAHASHI, TOO.
...
YEAH
COME ON, GET UP!
OKAY

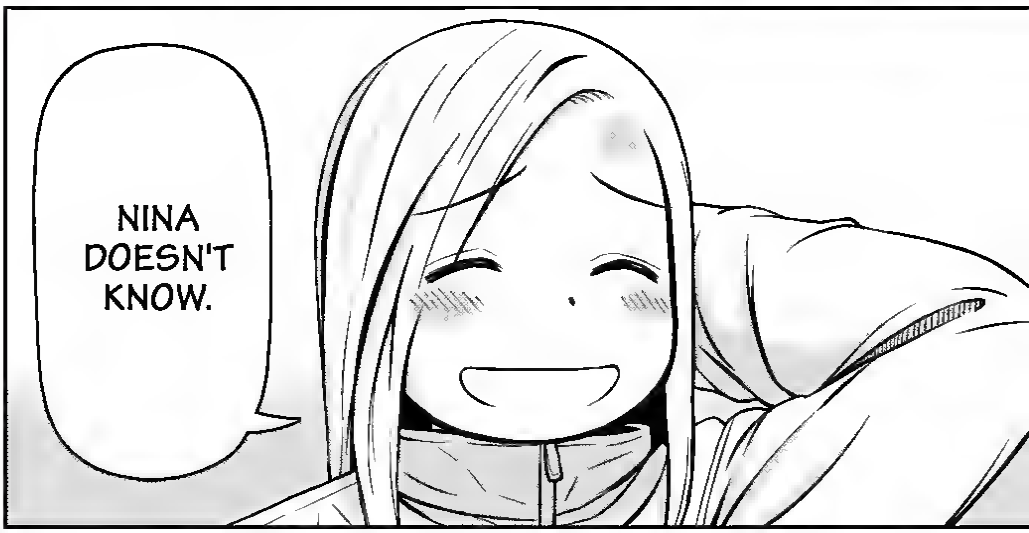


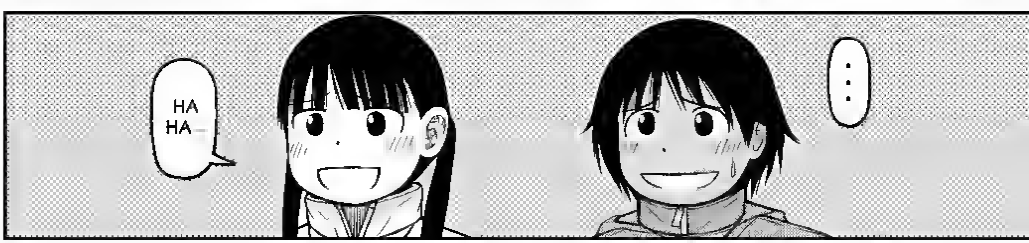

NINA!
ニーナぁ
SHIMAZAKI-SAN!
志摩崎さーん
PANT
はあ
HUFF
はあ
PANT
はあ
HUFF
はあ

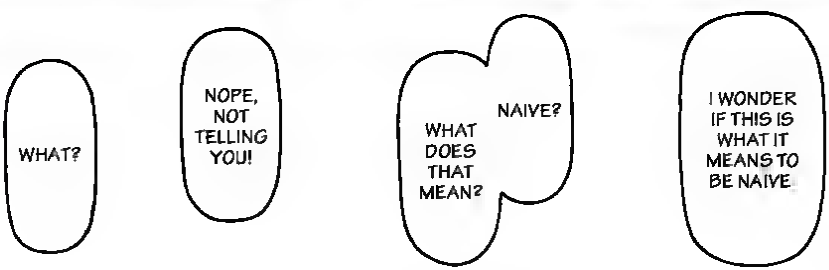

LET'S SKATE THE LAST LAP TOGETHER
HUFF はあ
PANT はあ
HUFF はあ
HUFF はあ
はあ PANT
ARISA-CHAN, MAKOTO-CHAN
OKAY.
DING キーン
DONG コーン
DING カーン
DONG コーン

MY HANDS ARE FREEZING
A HA HA
THAT I CAN'T EVEN WALK PROPER-LY
MY ANKLES ARE SO STIFF
MY LOWER BACK HURTS TOO
THIS SUCKS
STUDYING, EXERCIS-ING, EVERY SINGLE THING
I BET EVERY-THING IS FUN FOR YOU, NINA
WASN'T SKATING FUN?
...







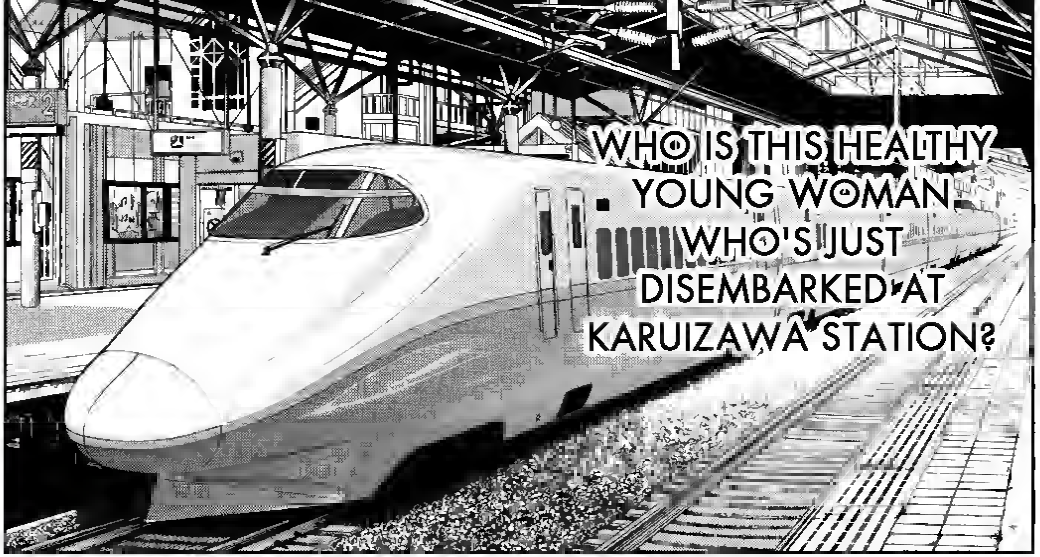


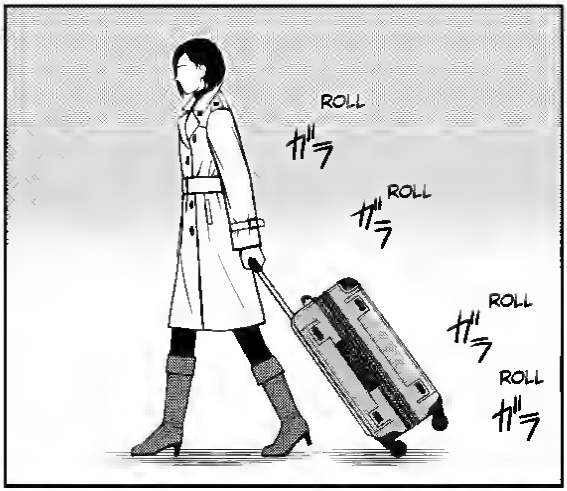
STAY POSITIVE!

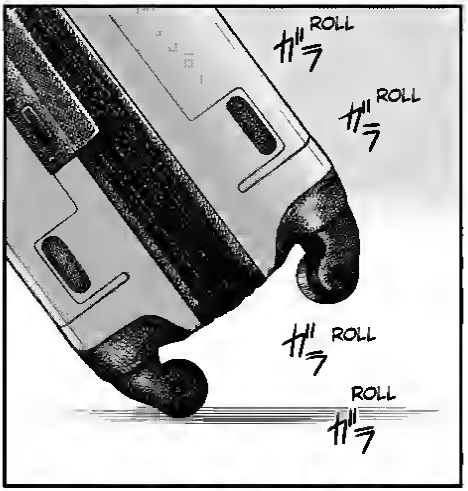
CHAPTER 49

OLDER SISTER, MOTHER COME HOME

BLOWING WHITE PUFFS OF STEAM INTO THE COLD AIR AS THE YEAR COMES TO AN END...


WHO IS THIS HEALTHY YOUNG WOMAN WHO'S JUST DISEMBARKED AT KARUIZAWA STATION?


ROLL
ガラ
ROLL
ガラ
ROLL
ガラ
ROLL
ガラ


ROLL
ガラ
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ROLL
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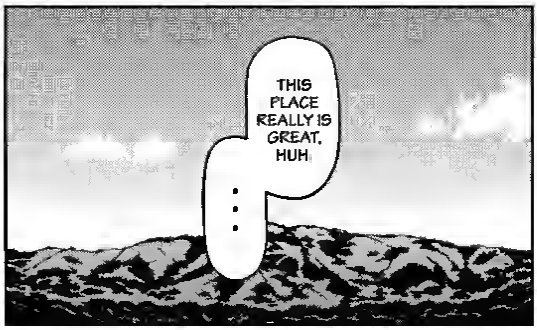
Welcome to 軽井沢

軽井沢駅

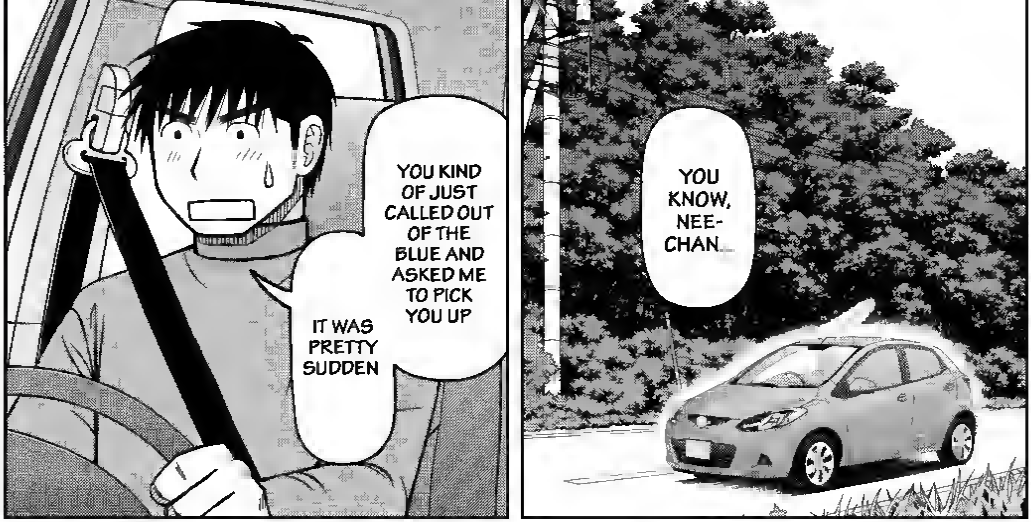

THIS PLACE REALLY IS GREAT, HUH.
...

I FEEL SO CALM...

NEE-CHAN.

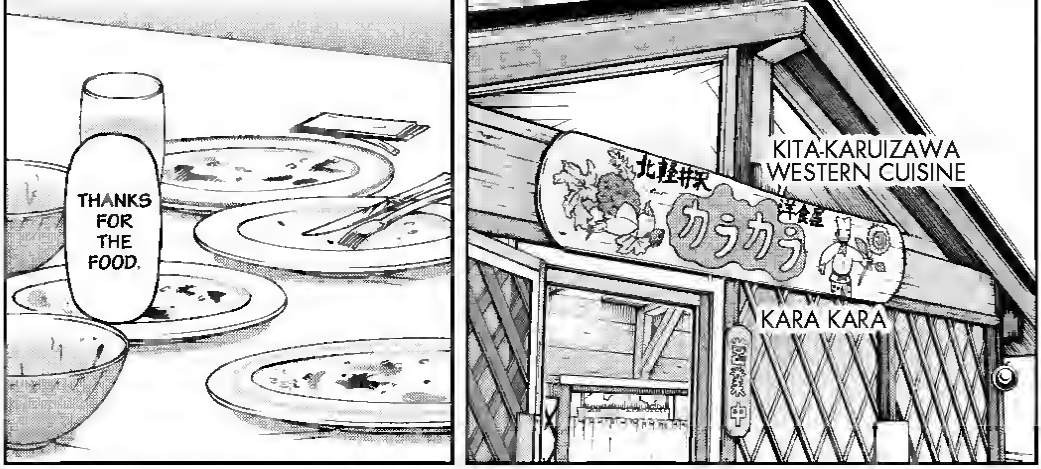
...
YEP.

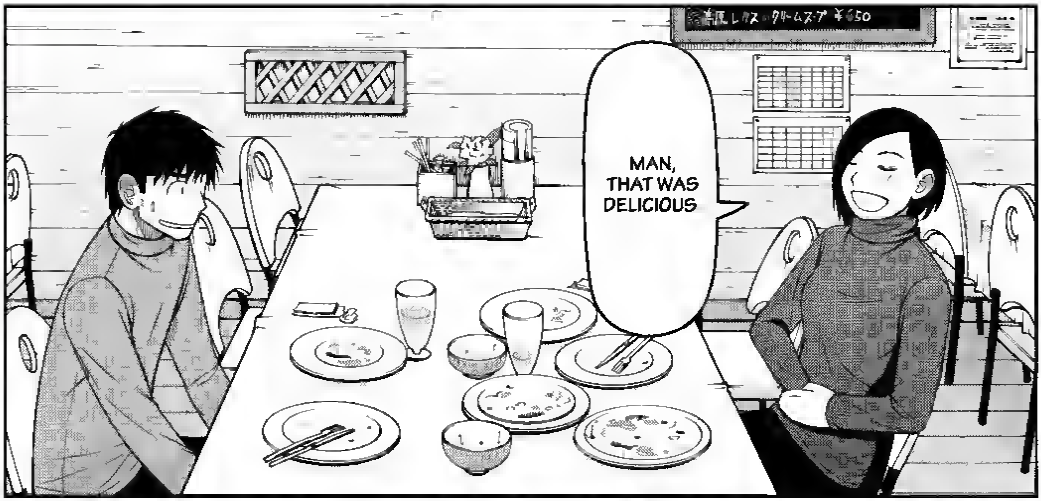
YEAH.
HASN'T IT BEEN ALMOST A DECADE SINCE WE LAST SAW EACH OTHER?
LONG TIME NO SEE.
OH, SHUTARO.
GLANCE
GLANCE
WHERE'S NINA?
IT'S A WEEKDAY MORNING.
SO SHE'S CURRENTLY ON HER WAY TO SCHOOL.
AH, RIGHT.

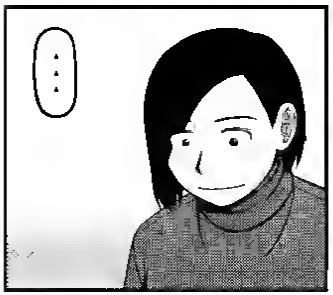

YOU KIND OF JUST CALLED OUT OF THE BLUE AND ASKED ME TO PICK YOU UP
IT WAS PRETTY SUDDEN
YOU KNOW, NEE-CHAN...

IF YOU KNEW YOU WERE COMING BACK TO JAPAN TODAY,
THE LEAST YOU COULD'VE DONE IS CALLED YESTER-DAY
HEH, UM...
SORRY ABOUT THAT

I JUST WANTED TO SEE NINA'S SUR-PRISED FACE
WELL, YOU SUR-PRISED ME, TOO
OH, RIGHT
CAN WE STOP AND GET FOOD SOME-WHERE?
I'M STARVING
おなかペコペコだよ…
ROGER THAT!


THANKS FOR THE FOOD.
KITA-KARUIZAWA WESTERN CUISINE
KARA KARA


MAN, THAT WAS DELICIOUS


. . .

HM?
SHUTARO

THANK YOU...
PBBT

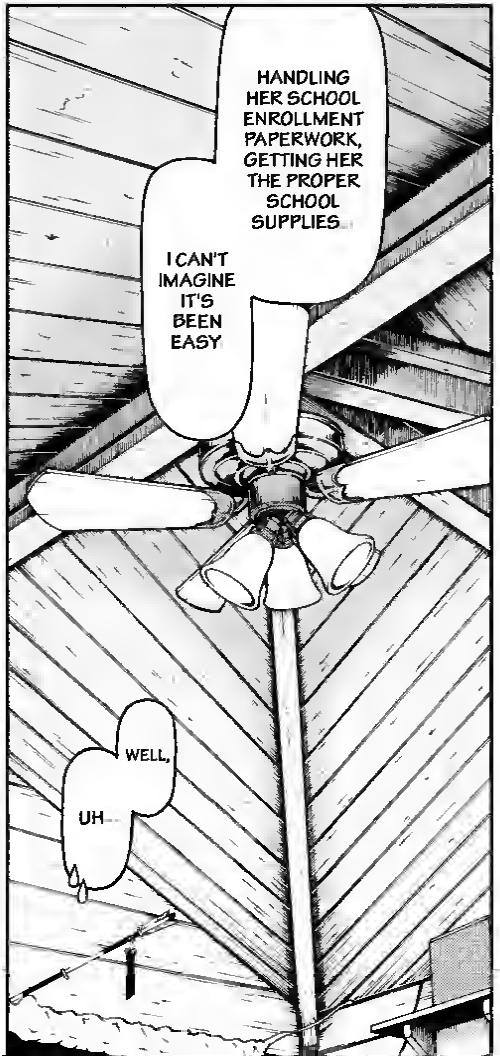
DON'T SPRAY COFFEE ON ME!
WHOA!
IT'S NOT TOO BAD.
かかったぬない
AH.
SORRY.

IT HAPPENED BECAUSE THAT WAS JUST SO UNLIKE YOU, NEE-CHAN
WELL, YOU'VE BEEN TAKING GOOD CARE OF NINA,
AND I REALLY APPRECI-ATE IT.

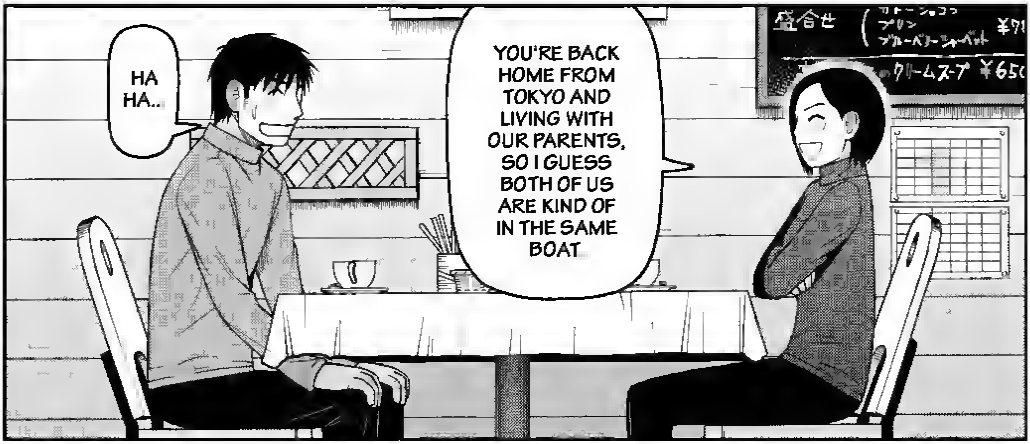
...
IT'S NO BIG DEAL.

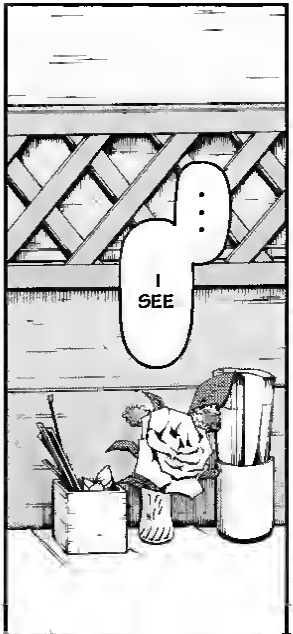
YOU SHOULD ALWAYS FEEL FREE TO LEAN ON ME.
WE'RE FAMILY, AFTER ALL.

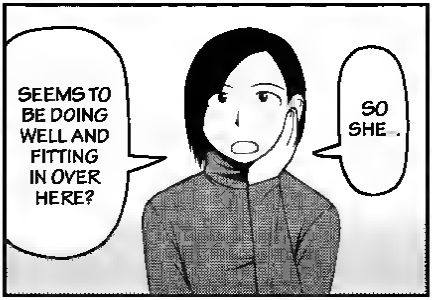
...


HANDLING HER SCHOOL ENROLLMENT PAPERWORK, GETTING HER THE PROPER SCHOOL SUPPLIES...
I CAN'T IMAGINE IT'S BEEN EASY
WELL, UH...

YOU'VE GOT A POINT.
YOU CHANGED YOUR TUNE FAST.
切り替え早いな…


HA HA..
YOU'RE BACK HOME FROM TOKYO AND LIVING WITH OUR PARENTS, SO I GUESS BOTH OF US ARE KIND OF IN THE SAME BOAT.

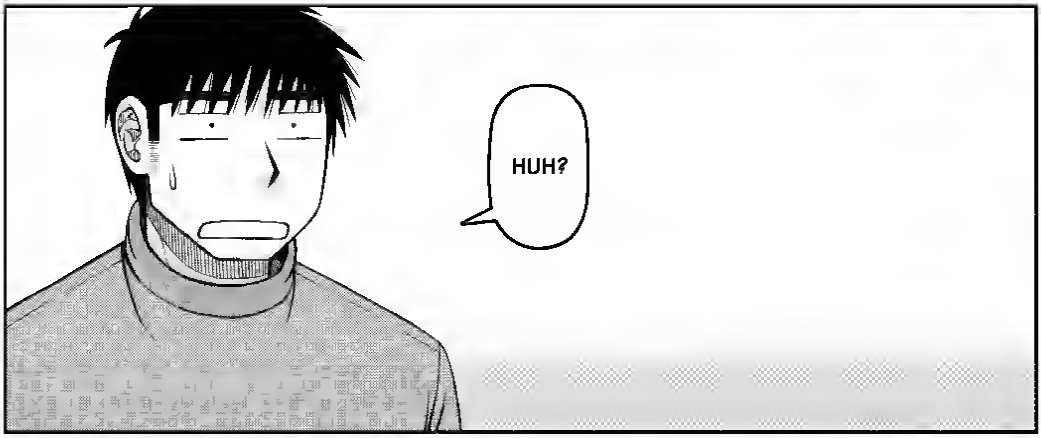

…
I SEE


SEEMS TO BE DOING WELL AND FITTING IN OVER HERE?
SO SHE…

WELL, SHE'S MADE SOME FRIENDS AND SEEMS TO BE HAVING A LOT OF FUN.

…
HUH.
見本

WELL, THEN...
MAYBE I'LL LIVE IN JAPAN AGAIN, TOO.

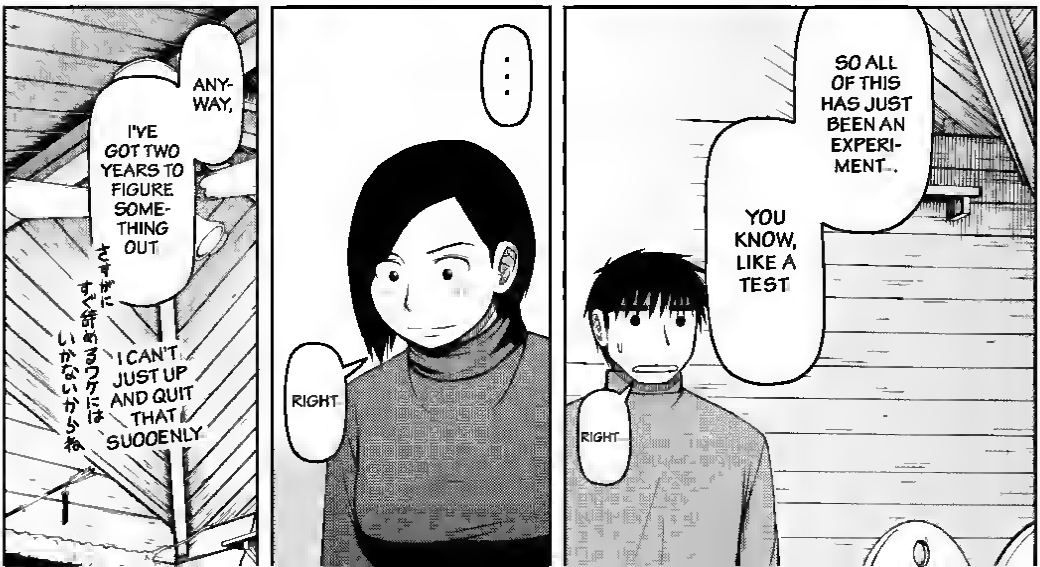

HUH?

...
AH, IT'S COMING TO ME NOW..
DID I NOT SAY THAT CLEARLY ENOUGH?
WAIT, WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?
WHAT ABOUT YOUR CURRENT JOB?
I'M GOING TO HAVE TO QUIT.
WELL, I WANT TO LIVE WITH MY DAUGHTER, WHOM I LOVE VERY MUCH
I'VE ACTUALLY HAD THIS ON MY MIND FOR A BIT NOW
EH?
NEE-CHAN HAS ALWAYS MADE DECISIONS ON A WHIM...
DECISIONS THAT ALWAYS SCARE THE CRAP OUT OF EVERYONE AROUND HER

BUT, IT'S REALLY NINA'S DECISION TO MAKE.
?

NINA IS LIVING IN JAPAN BECAUSE...
THAT WAS WHAT SHE WANTED TO DO.
YOU CAN'T TELL IF YOU CAN LIVE IN A PLACE...
UNTIL YOU ACTUALLY LIVE THERE

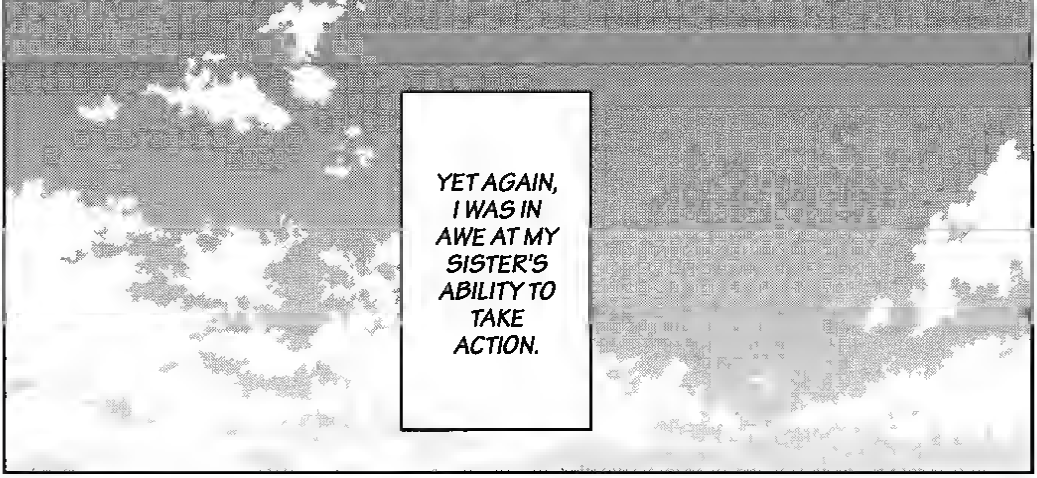

SO ALL OF THIS HAS JUST BEEN AN EXPERI-MENT...
YOU KNOW, LIKE A TEST
RIGHT
...
RIGHT
ANY-WAY,
I'VE GOT TWO YEARS TO FIGURE SOME-THING OUT.
さすがにすぐ辞めるワケにはいかないからね。
I CAN'T JUST UP AND QUIT THAT SUDDENLY

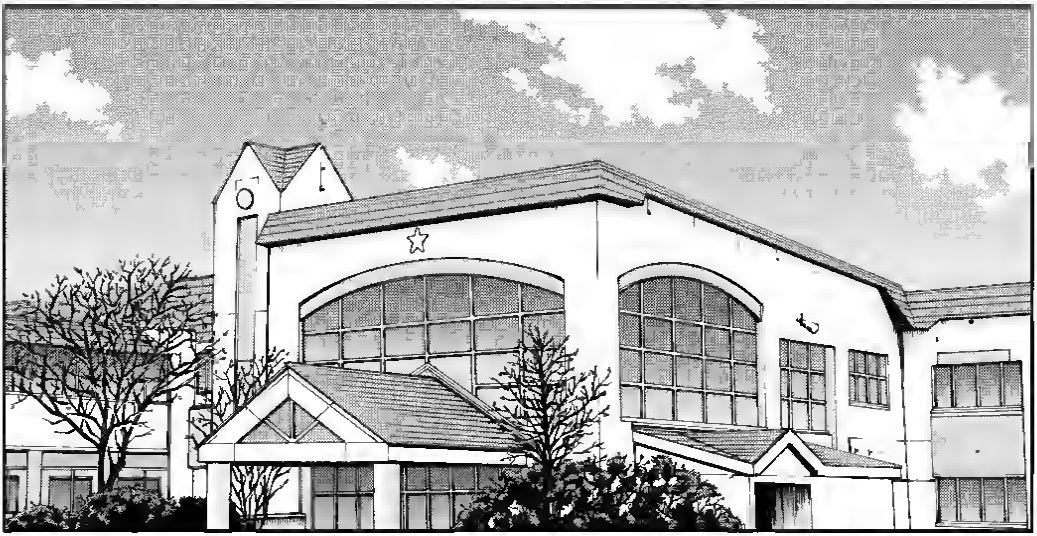
NEE-CHAN,
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S A WASTE?
YOU WENT ALL THE WAY TO FINLAND AND LANDED THE JOB YOU REALLY WANTED.

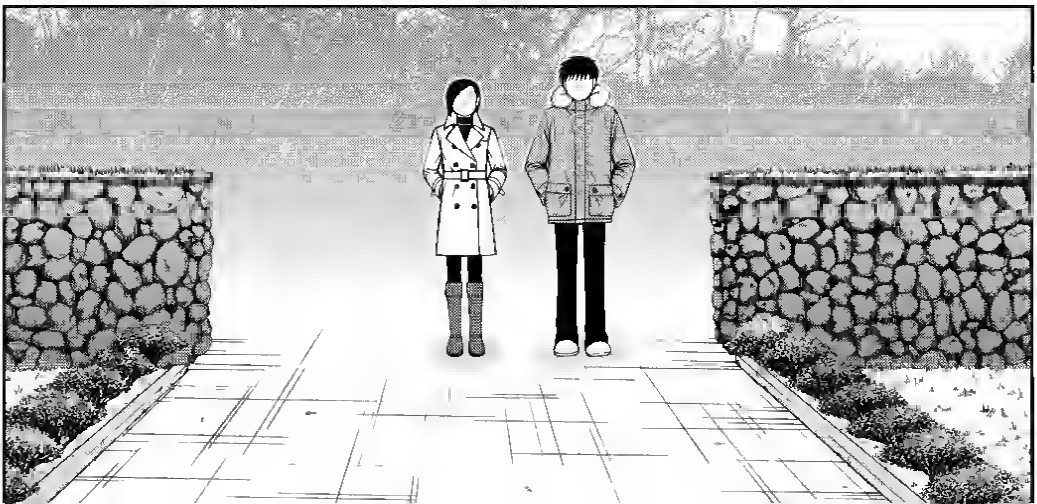
AND...
THERE'S A LOT OF STUFF I WANT TO DO WHILE I'M IN JAPAN.
STUFF?

WHAT I WANT TO DO RIGHT NOW IS LIVE WITH NINA.

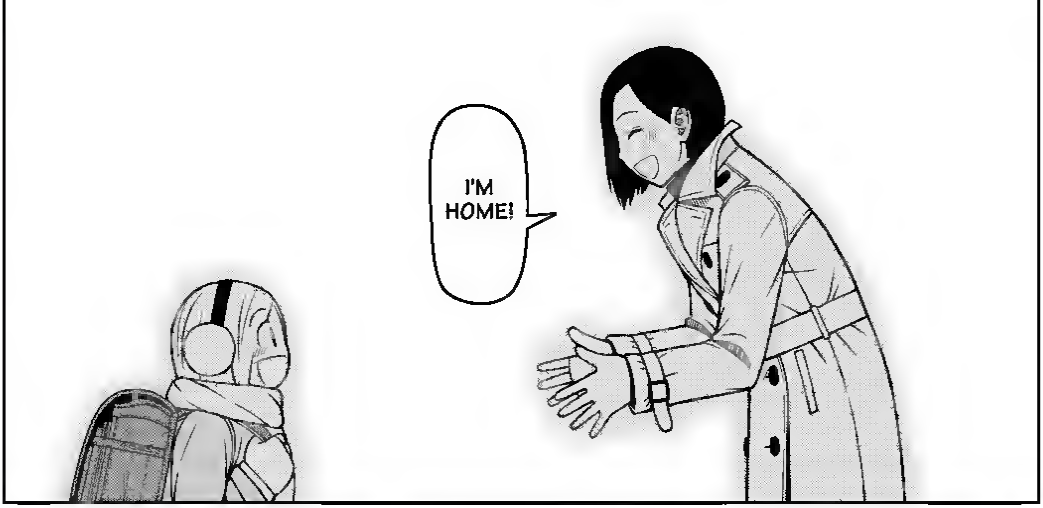
I'M GOING TO START A COMPANY THAT IMPORTS SCANDINAVIAN FURNITURE,
BECAUSE I WANT TO SPREAD THE BRILLIANTNESS THAT IS SCANDINAVIAN FURNITURE THROUGHOUT JAPAN
I ALSO WANT TO OPEN A STUDIO TO MAKE SCANDINAVIAN FURNITURE HERE
WOULDN'T IT BE GREAT TO USE THE LOCAL TIMBER FOR THAT?
ALSO...

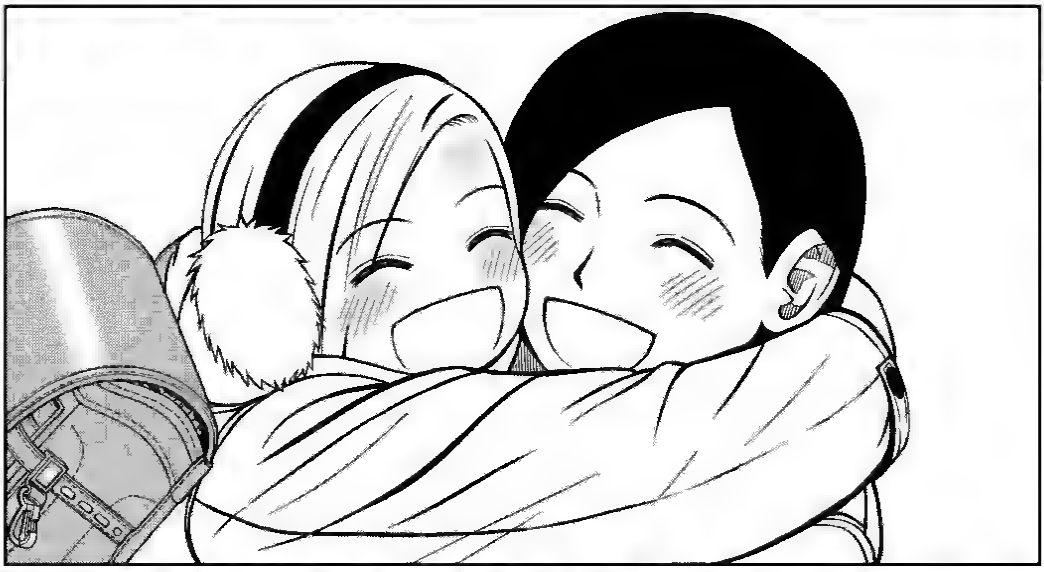

YET AGAIN, I WAS IN AWE AT MY SISTER'S ABILITY TO TAKE ACTION.

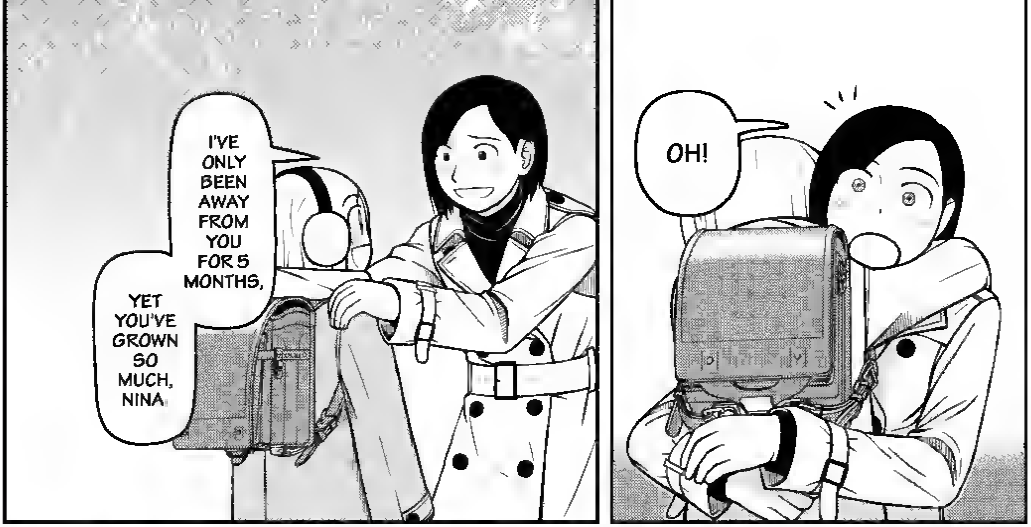




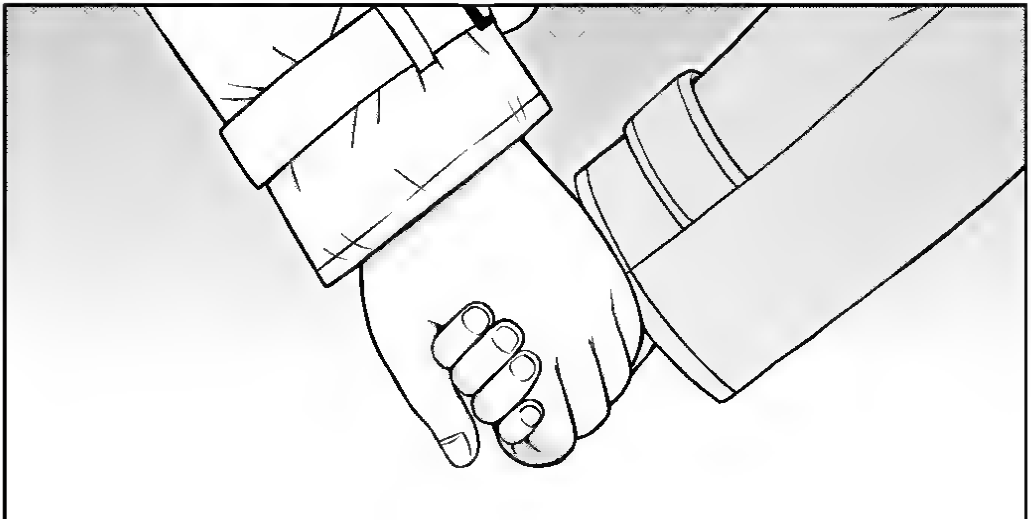
NINA!
ニーナぁ
MAMA?!

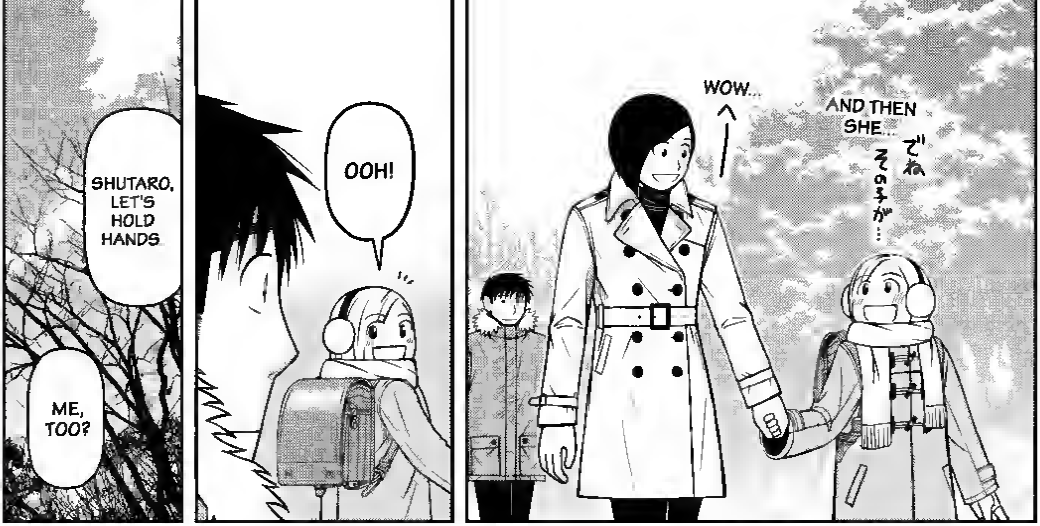

I'M HOME!

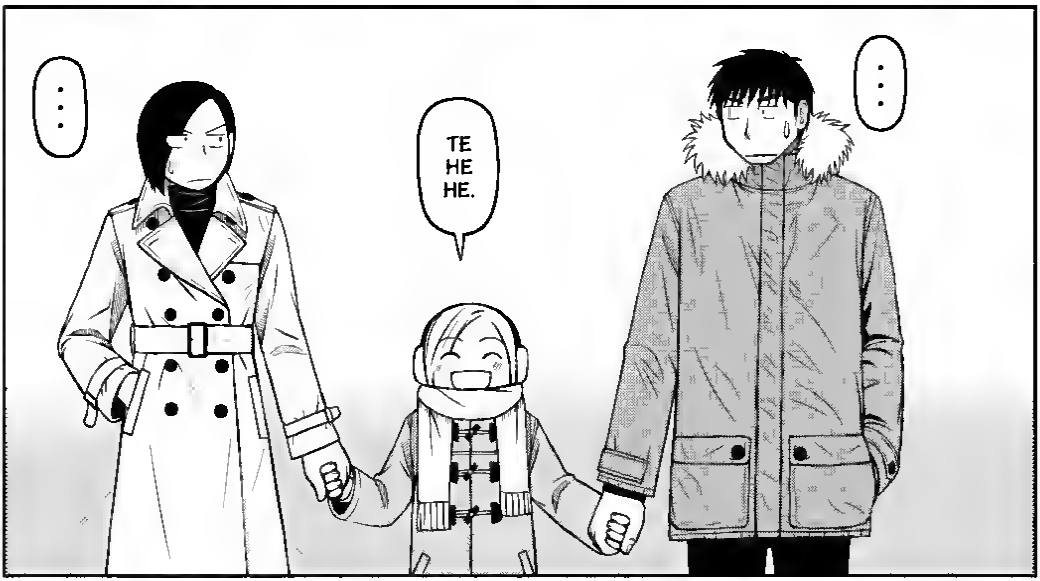



I'VE ONLY BEEN AWAY FROM YOU FOR 5 MONTHS,
YET YOU'VE GROWN SO MUCH, NINA.
OH!

SIGH...
KIDS REALLY DO GROW UP FAST.







MOTHER AND DAUGHTER SPEND SOME MUCH-NEEDED TIME TOGETHER!

CHAPTER 50

OUR STORY STARTED IN THE SUMMER, AND WE'RE CELEBRATING WINTER WITH OUR 50TH CHAPTER!

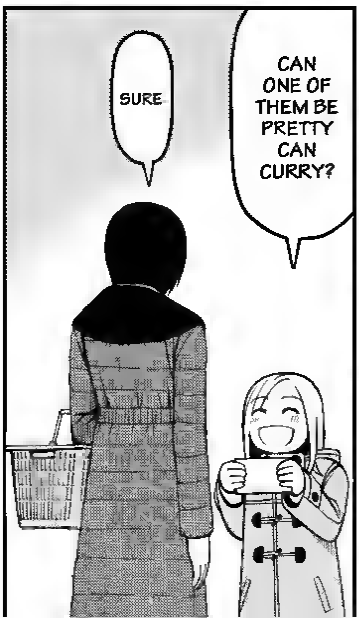
JUST PARENT AND CHILD

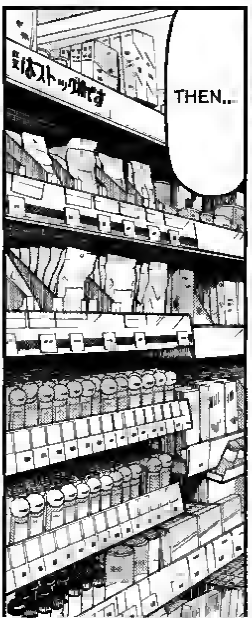
SPENDING A DAY IN THE SNOW WITH MOTHER, WHO'S RECENTLY ARRIVED HOME...

SIGN: FRESH MARKET

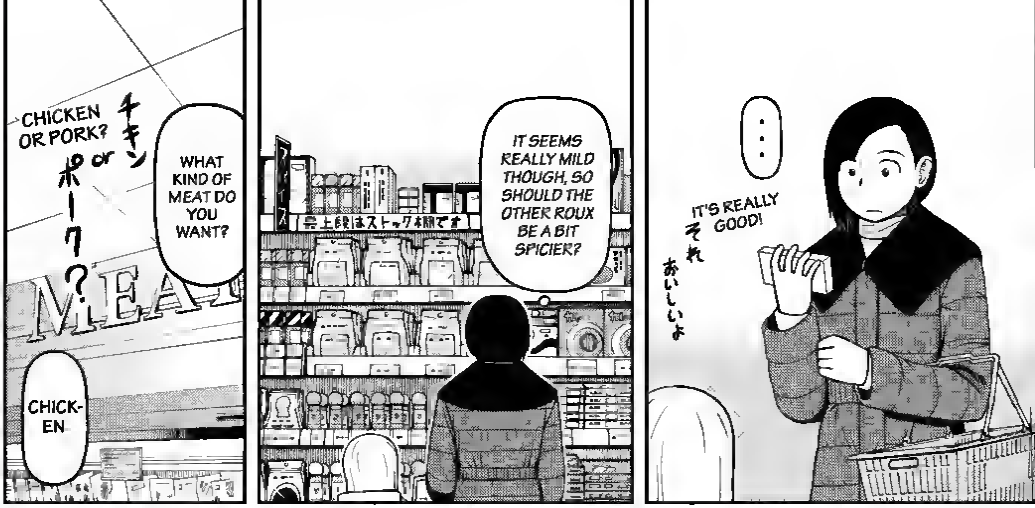
WOW, NINA, I'M SURPRISED YOU KNOW THAT.
YEP, SHUTARO TAUGHT NINA THAT WHEN HE MADE SOME.

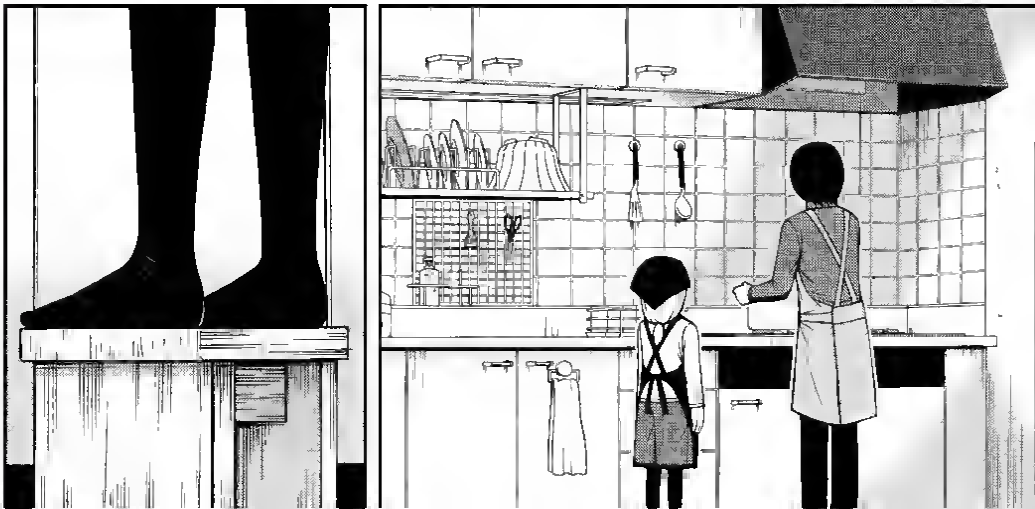
IT'S BECAUSE WHEN YOU USE TWO DIFFERENT KINDS OF ROUX, YOU GET A NICE BLEND OF SPICES.
YEAH, THAT'S TRUE

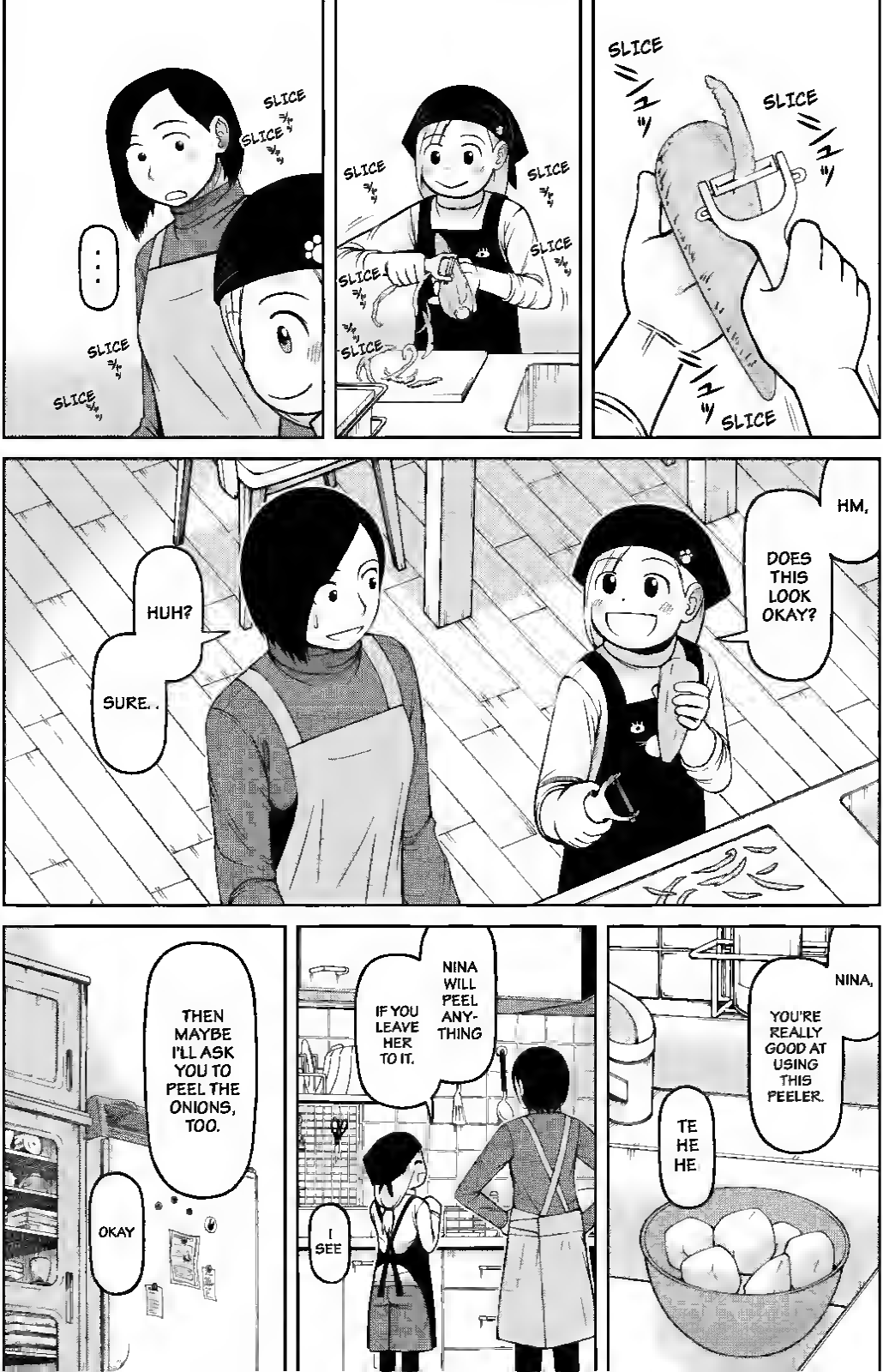

CAN ONE OF THEM BE PRETTY CAN CURRY?
SURE.

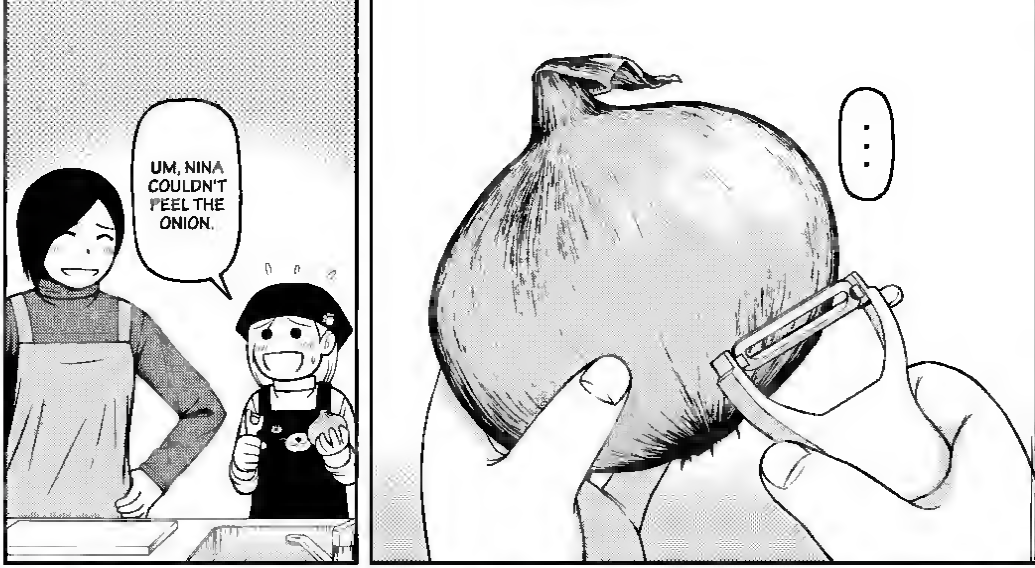

THEN...

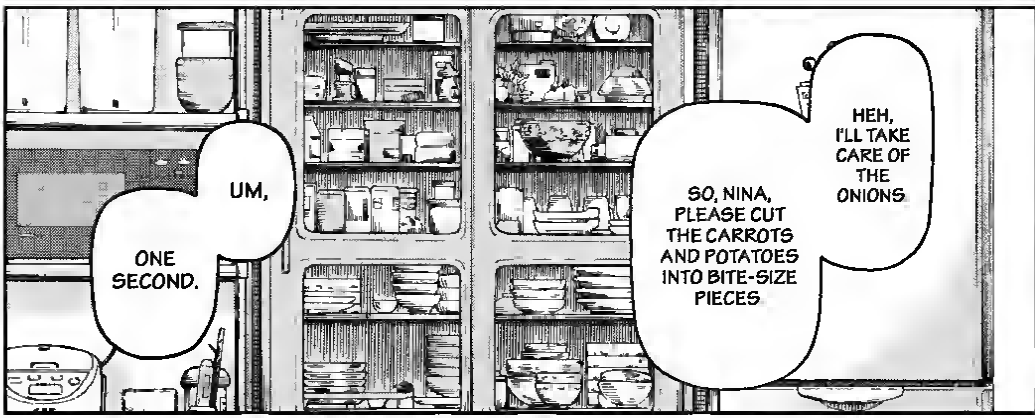
SO, SHOULD WE USE TWO DIFFERENT KINDS OF ROUX FOR TODAY'S CURRY?
YEAH.

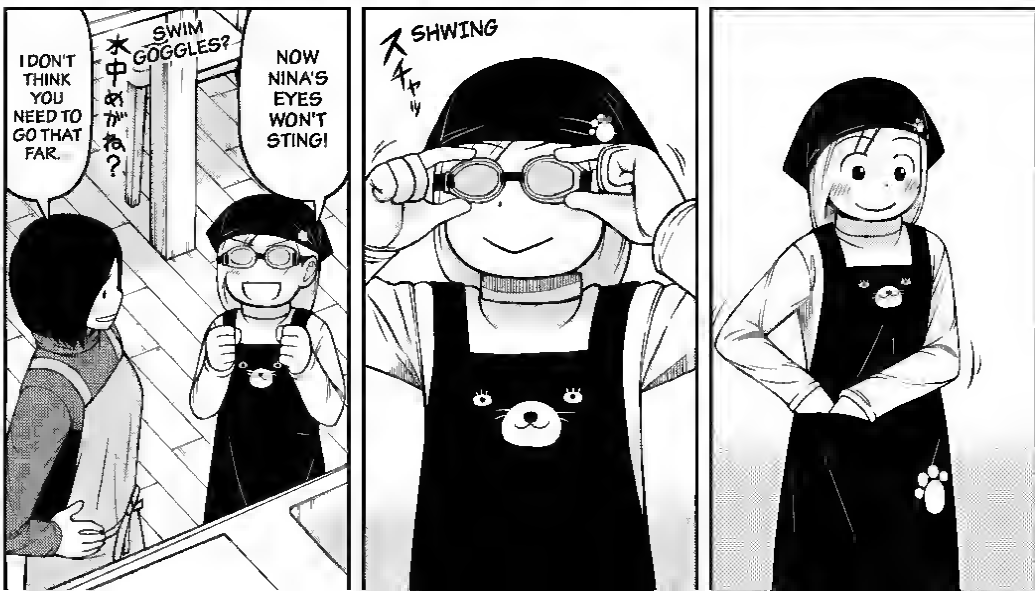

CHICKEN OR PORK?
チキン or ポーク?
WHAT KIND OF MEAT DO YOU WANT?
CHICK-EN
MEAT
会上段はストック用です
IT SEEMS REALLY MILD THOUGH, SO SHOULD THE OTHER ROUX BE A BIT SPICIER?
…
それ おいしいよ
IT'S REALLY GOOD!




SLICE
SLICE
...
SLICE
SLICE
SLICE
SLICE
SLICE
SLICE
SLICE
SLICE
SLICE
SLICE
SLICE
HM,
DOES THIS LOOK OKAY?
HUH?
SURE. .
THEN MAYBE I'LL ASK YOU TO PEEL THE ONIONS, TOO.
OKAY
NINA WILL PEEL ANY-THING
IF YOU LEAVE HER TO IT.
I SEE
NINA,
YOU'RE REALLY GOOD AT USING THIS PEELER.
TE HE HE


UM, NINA COULDN'T PEEL THE ONION.
...

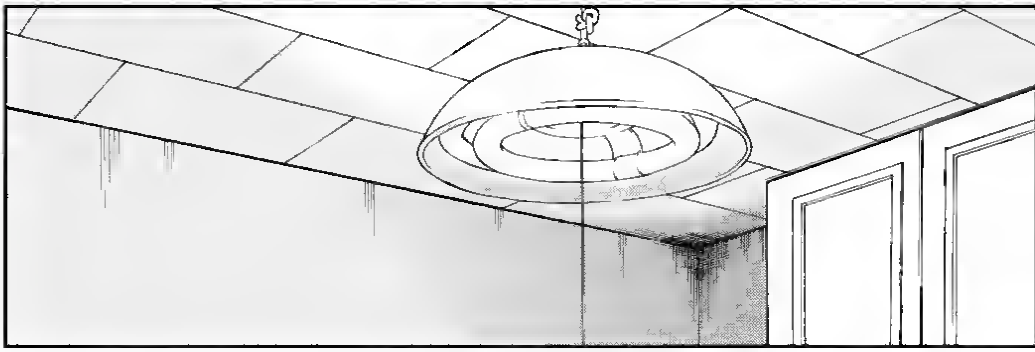

UM, ONE SECOND.
SO, NINA, PLEASE CUT THE CARROTS AND POTATOES INTO BITE-SIZE PIECES
HEH, I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE ONIONS


I DON'T THINK YOU NEED TO GO THAT FAR.
水中めがね?
SWIM GOGGLES?
NOW NINA'S EYES WON'T STING!
スチャッ
SHWING

SIZZLE
ジュー
SIZZLE
ジュー
NINA, PLEASE GET SOME WATER READY
ニナ お水用意して
OKAY
はーい
BUBBLE
ぐつ
BUBBLE
ぐつ
BUBBLE
ぐつ
IT'S IMPORTANT TO SKIM OFF THE FILM TOO, RIGHT?
アクトリも大事なんだよね
YEP
そうよ
BUBBLE
ぐつ
BUBBLE
ぐつ
BUBBLE
ぐつ

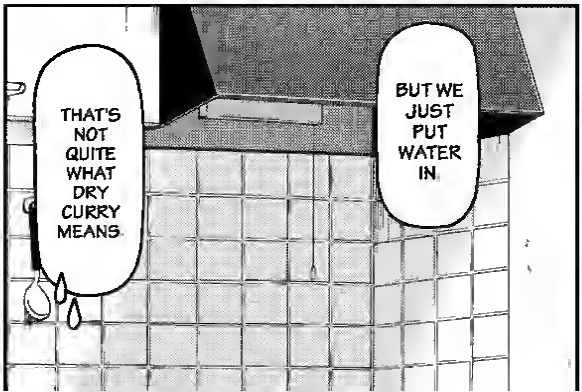
OKAY, HERE GOES!
じゃあ入れるね

MMM, THIS SMELLS SO GOOD...
はーいい匂い…



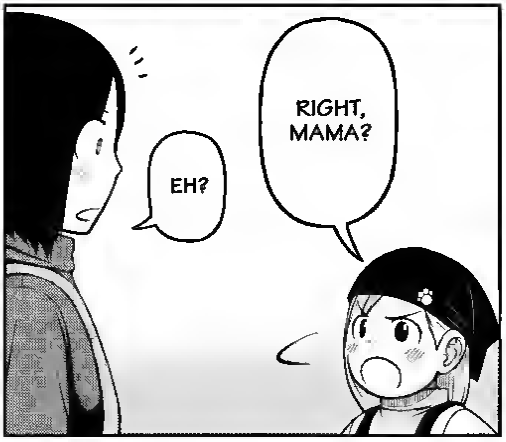
HUH?
WE SHOULD CALL THIS "PARENT AND CHILD DRY CURRY."
I GUESS...

YEP.
LOOKS GOOD!

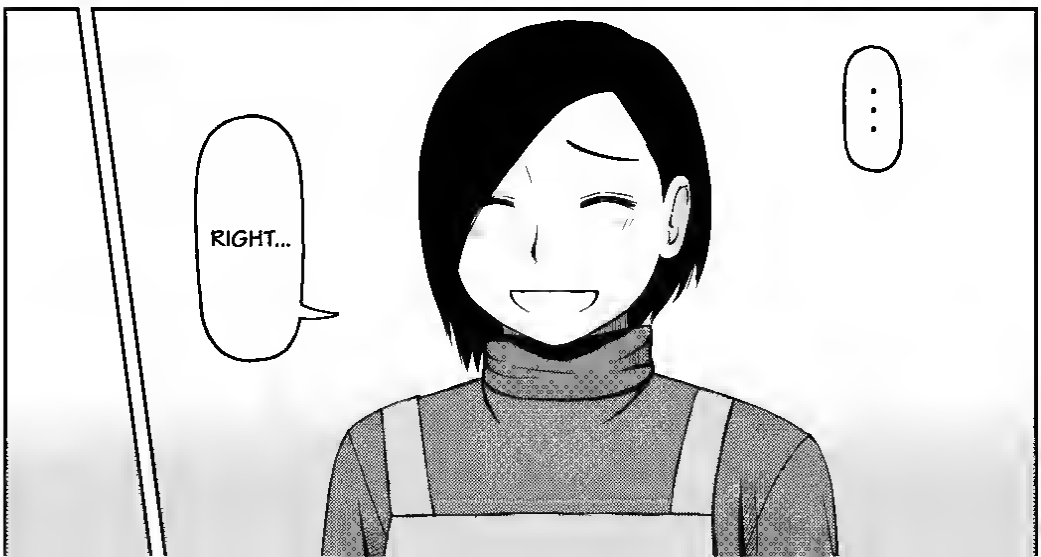

THAT'S NOT QUITE WHAT DRY CURRY MEANS.
BUT WE JUST PUT WATER IN.

YEP
YOU'RE MAKING CURRY WITH NEE-CHAN, NINA?
OH.
DOESN'T IT?
WHOA, THAT LOOKS GOOD!
NOT YET!
WHA?
A LITTLE BIT WON'T HURT...
いじきたないね
TALK ABOUT GREEDY
I'M JUST GONNA HAVE A TASTE

ALL RIGHT, FINE.
CAN'T YOU WAIT UNTIL DINNER?
SHEESHI

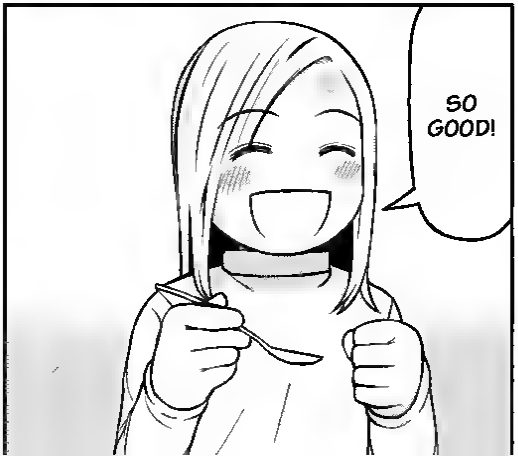

EH?
RIGHT, MAMA?

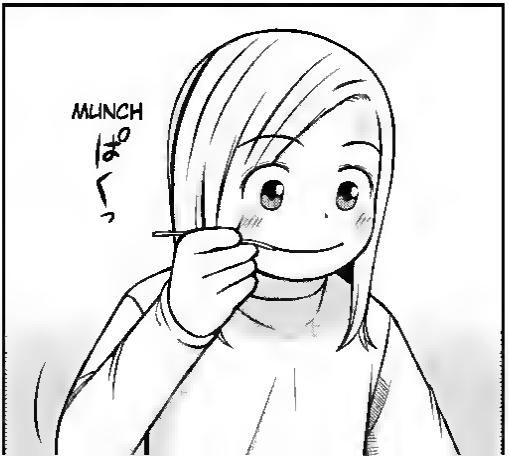
YOU'RE HOPE-LESS, SHUTARO


RIGHT...
...

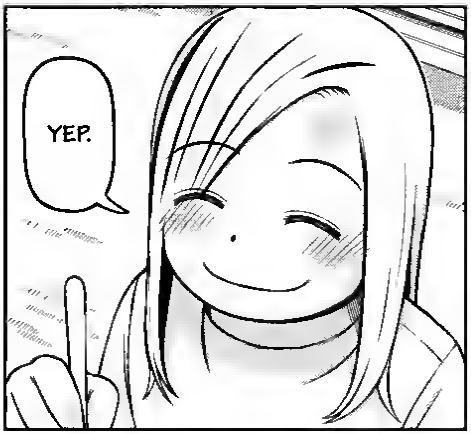
OH MY, THIS IS DELICIOUS

WOW
TASTY.


SO GOOD!

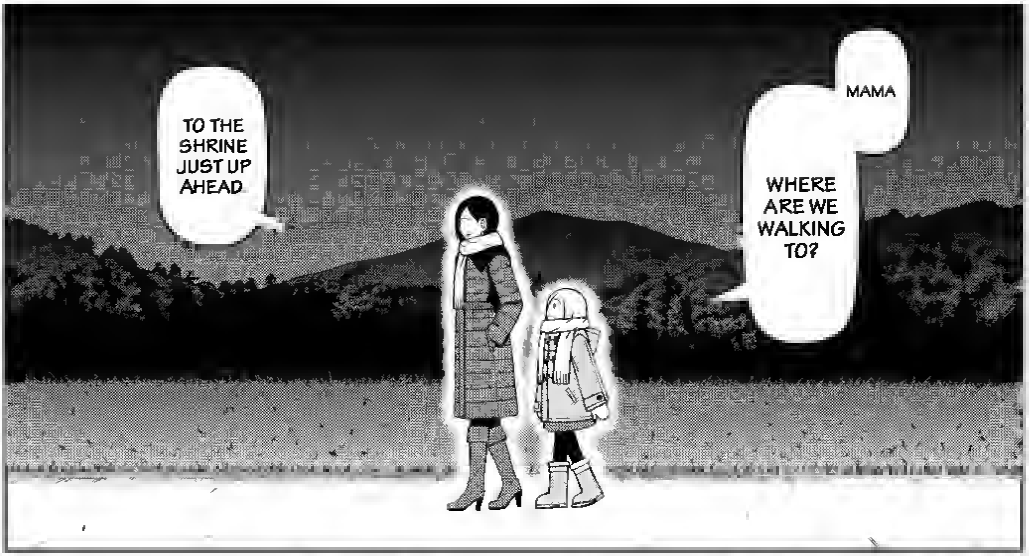

MUNCH

GRANDPA IS GOING TO BE SO SURPRISED
BY HOW DELICIOUS THIS CURRY IS.
PRETTY GOOD, RIGHT?
YEAH, JUST A BIT, NOT ENOUGH TO AFFECT THE TEXTURE
IS THERE BURDOCK IN HERE, TOO?

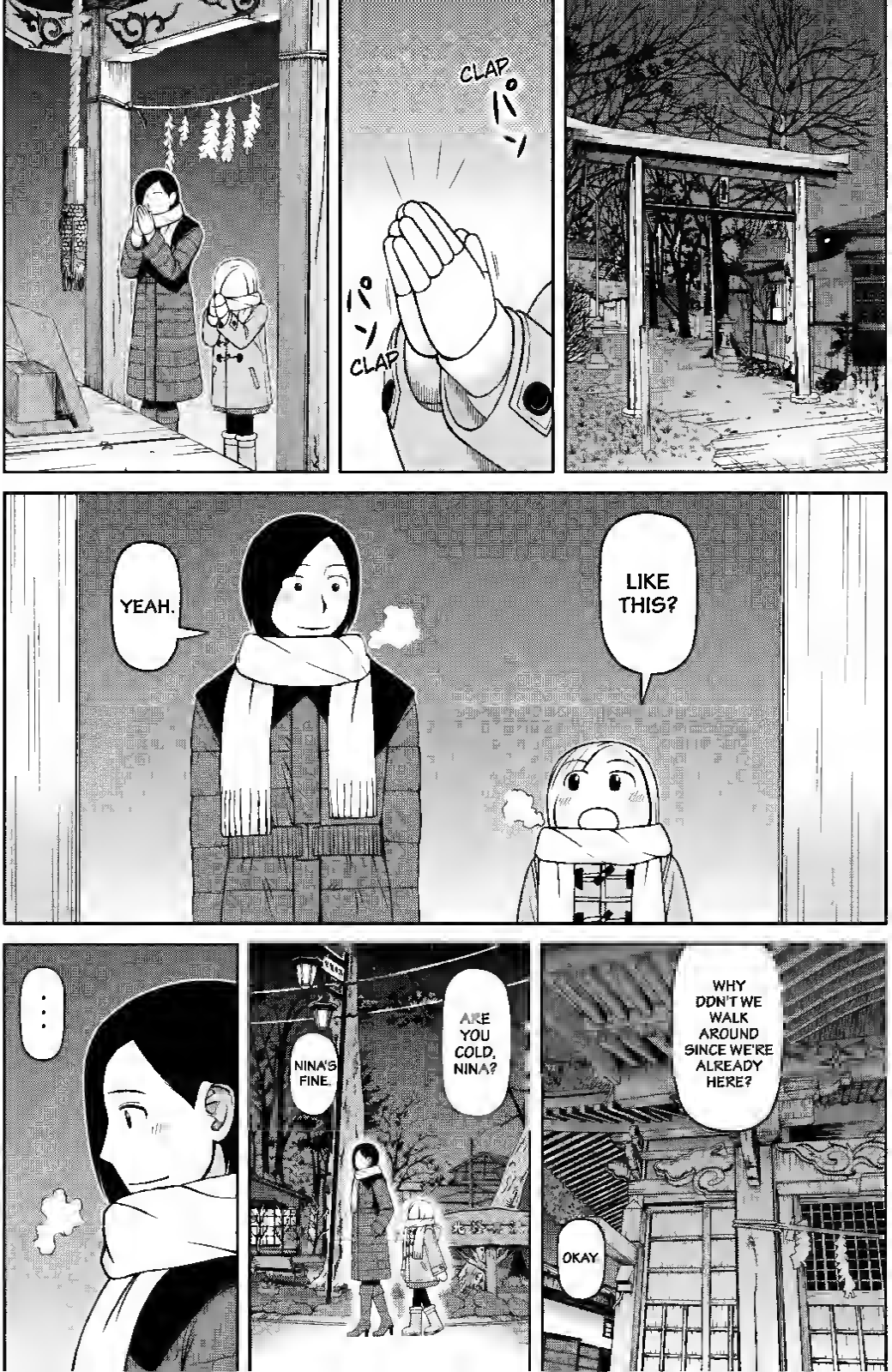

YEP.

ISN'T IT GREAT THAT IT TURNED OUT SO WELL, NINA?

HEY, NINA WANTS SECONDS, TOO.
YEAH. WE MADE PLENTY. SO EAT AS MUCH AS YOU'D LIKE.
NEE-CHAN, CAN I GET SECONDS?


MAMA
WHERE ARE WE WALKING TO?
TO THE SHRINE JUST UP AHEAD.

I WON'T BE HERE AROUND NEW YEAR'S,
SO I WON'T BE ABLE TO DO HATSU-MÔDE WITH YOU.
SO I THOUGHT WE SHOULD GO TOGETHER WHILE WE STILL CAN
HATSU-MÔDE?
WHEN THE NEW YEAR BEGINS,
WE GO TO THE SHRINE AND ASK THE GODS FOR ANOTHER GOOD YEAR, AND WE CALL THIS HATSUMÔDE.
HUH...


CLAP
CLAP
LIKE THIS?
YEAH.
WHY DON'T WE WALK AROUND SINCE WE'RE ALREADY HERE?
OKAY
ARE YOU COLD, NINA?
NINA'S FINE.
...

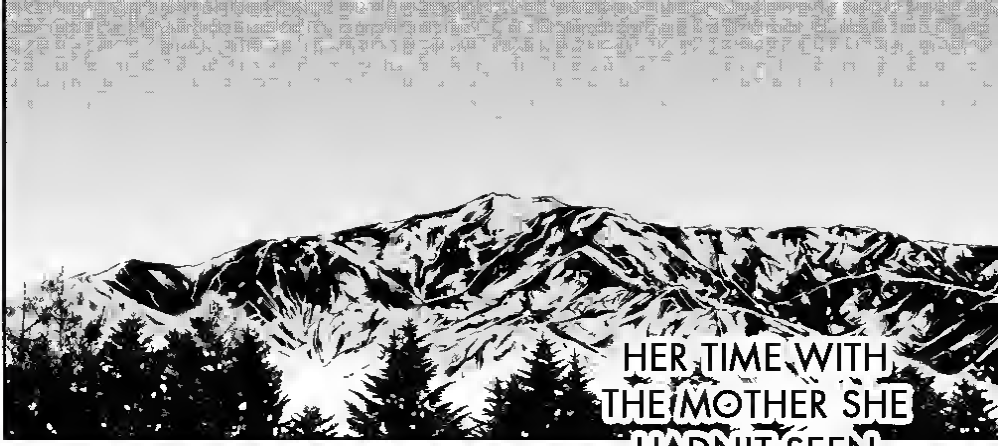
YOU KNOW.
I'VE BEEN CONSISTENTLY SURPRISED SINCE I'VE GOTTEN BACK
BE-CAUSE...
YOU'VE GROWN SO MUCH IN THE LAST SIX MONTHS, NINA.
北軽井沢
KITAKARUIZAWA
I'M...
KIND OF AT A LOSS HERE
YOU THINK SO?
HMM, NOT QUITE.
OH.
HEH
ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT THE SHRINE VISIT?
?

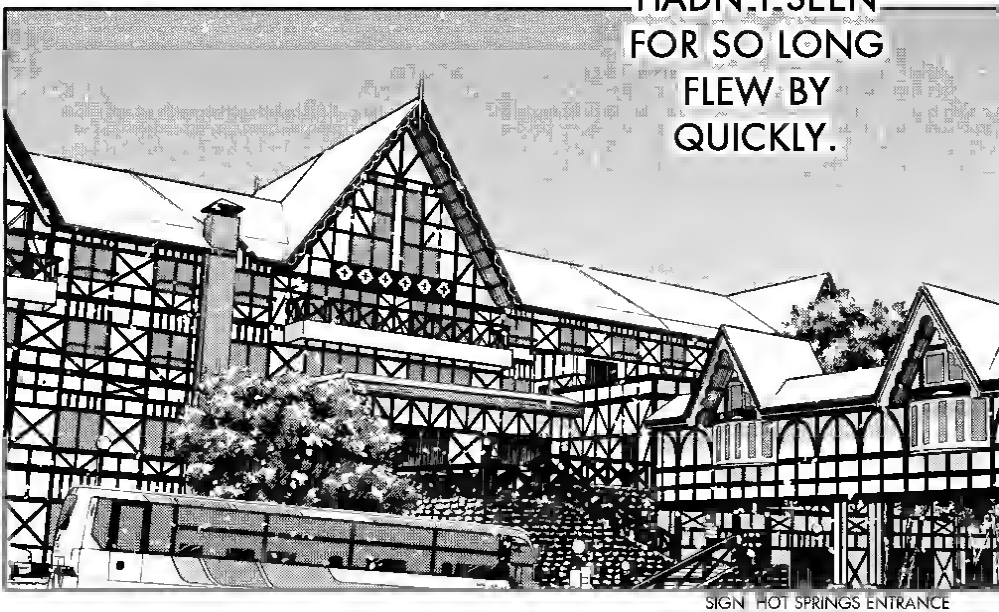
IT'S SNOWING...

ISN'T IT PRETTY, MAMA?
YEAH, IT IS.
IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S GOING TO PILE UP BY TOMOR-ROW MORN-ING
YAY!
DO YOU LIKE IT WHEN IT STICKS?
YEP!
BE-CAUSE
WHEN THE SNOW PILES UP, EVERY-THING TURNS WHITE,
AND IT'S ALMOST LIKE A DIFFERENT WORLD

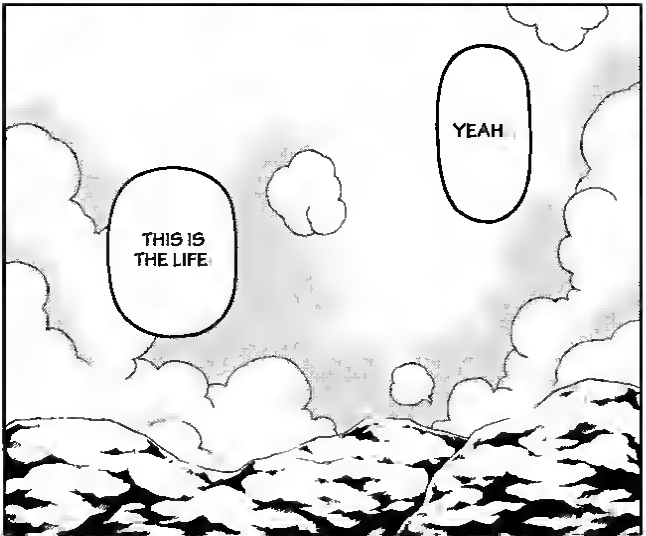
OH, THE COMPLICATED FEELINGS OF LONELINESS AND HAPPINESS...

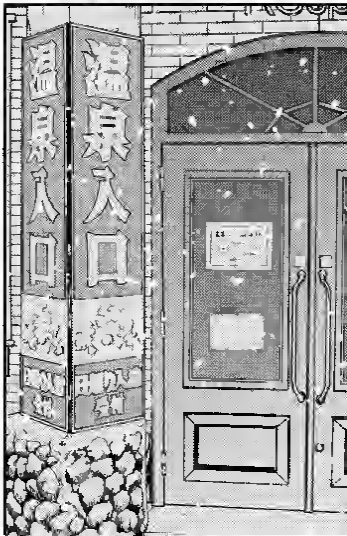
CHAPTER 51 THE FACE OF GOODBYE

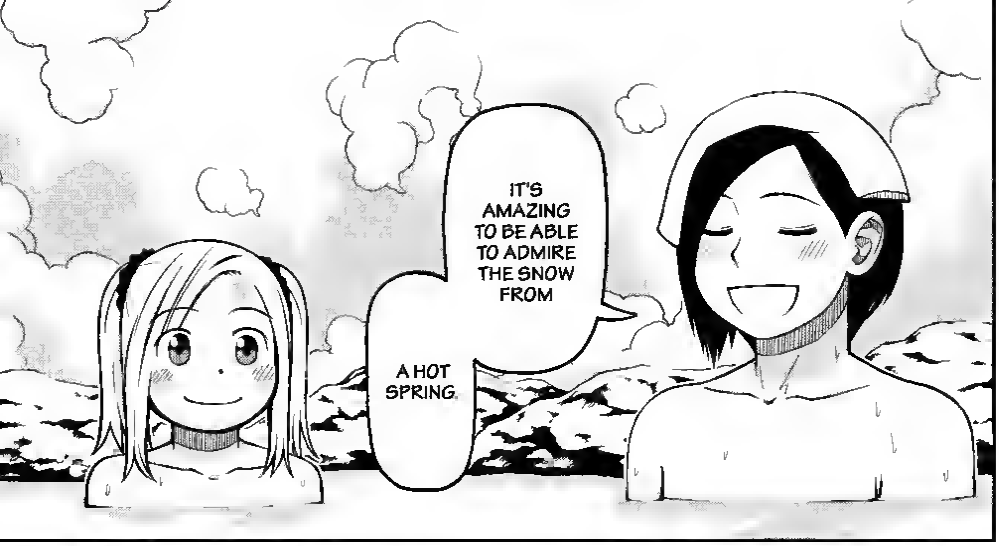


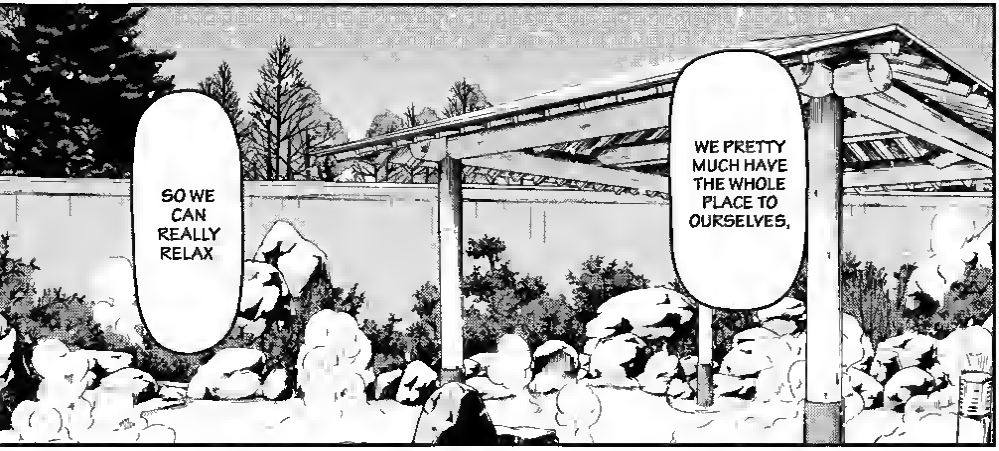


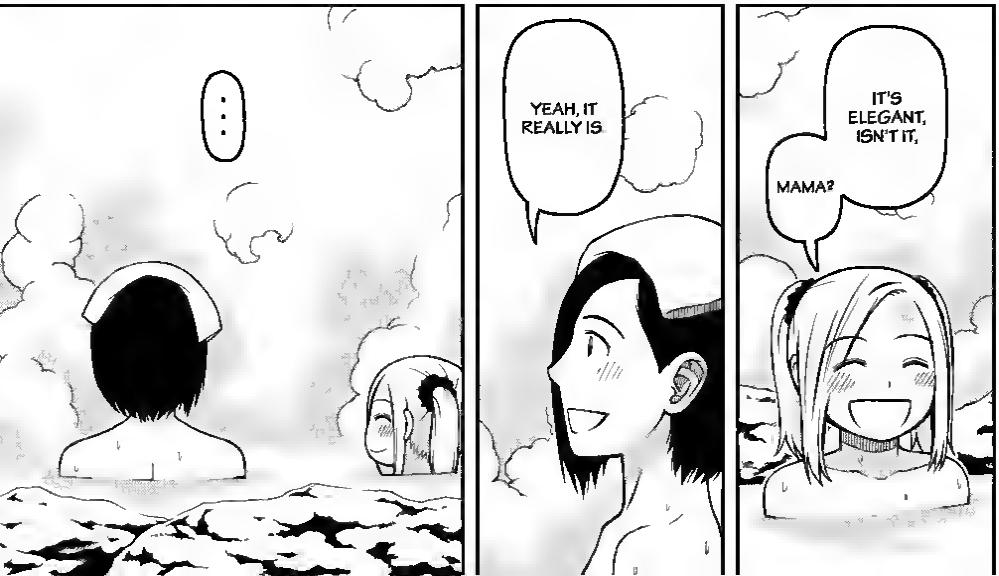
SIGN: HOT SPRINGS ENTRANCE

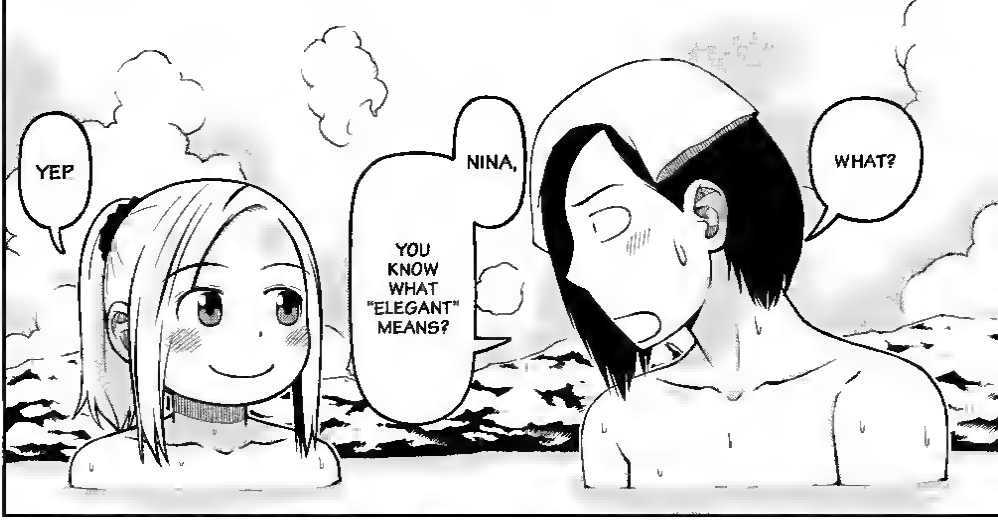


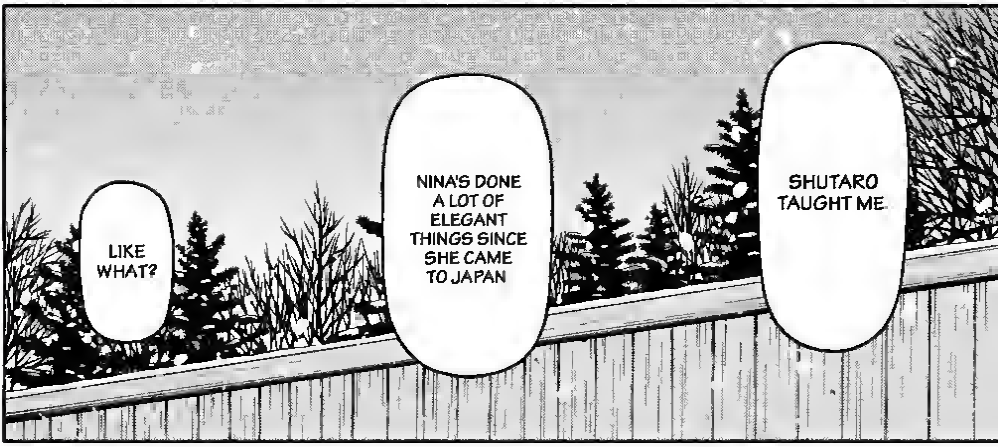


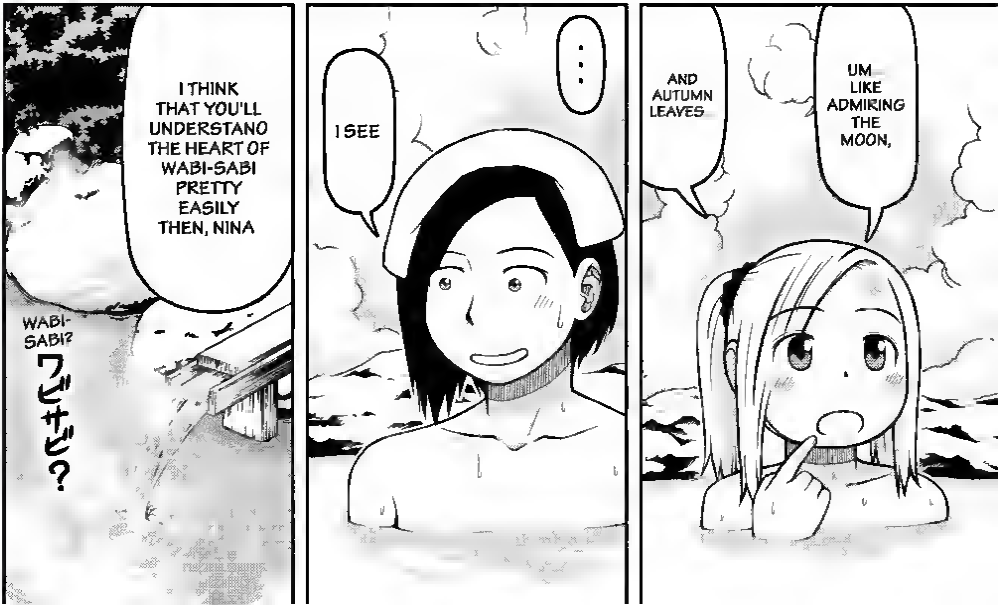

IT'S AMAZING TO BE ABLE TO ADMIRE THE SNOW FROM A HOT SPRING.


SO WE CAN REALLY RELAX
WE PRETTY MUCH HAVE THE WHOLE PLACE TO OURSELVES.


...
YEAH, IT REALLY IS.
IT'S ELEGANT, ISN'T IT, MAMA?

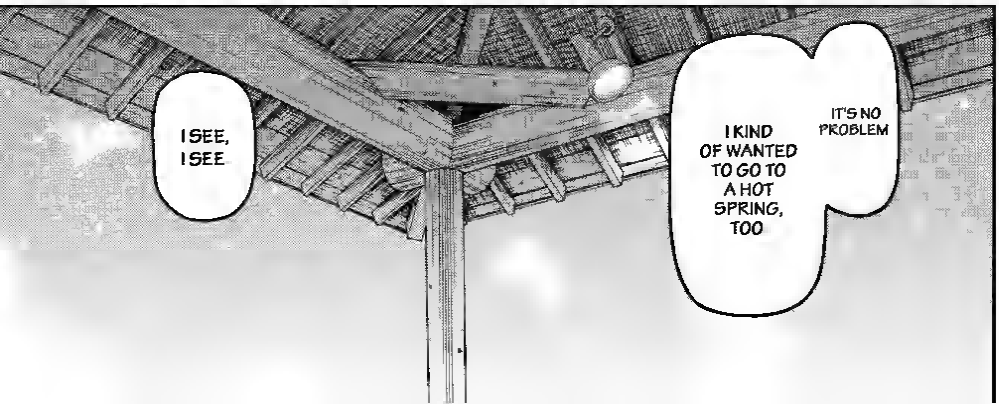

NINA,
YOU KNOW WHAT "ELEGANT" MEANS?
YEP
WHAT?


SHUTARO TAUGHT ME
NINA'S DONE A LOT OF ELEGANT THINGS SINCE SHE CAME TO JAPAN
LIKE WHAT?


UM LIKE ADMIRING THE MOON,
AND AUTUMN LEAVES
...
I SEE
I THINK THAT YOU'LL UNDERSTANO THE HEART OF WABI-SABI PRETTY EASILY THEN, NINA
WABI-SABI?
ワビサビ?

THANKS, TOMOE-CHAN,
FOR GIVING US A RIDE TO HERE
OH, IT'S NOTHING

APPARENTLY, SHUTARO'S NOT USED TO DRIVING ON SNOWY ROADS YET.
...SO I DIDN'T FEEL SAFE WITH HIM DRIVING
I SEE

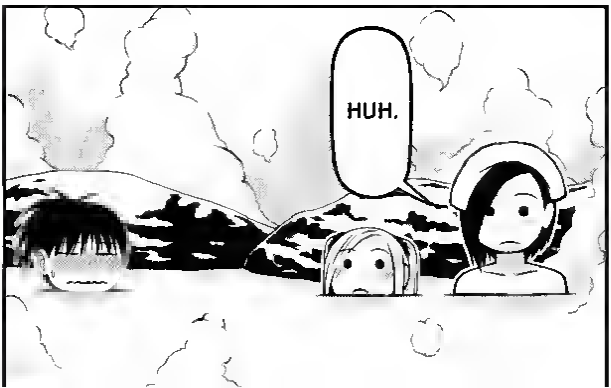

I KIND OF WANTED TO GO TO A HOT SPRING, TOO
IT'S NO PROBLEM
I SEE, I SEE

WHAT?!
SHUTARO'S LUCKY TO HAVE SUCH A GREAT GIRLFRIEND

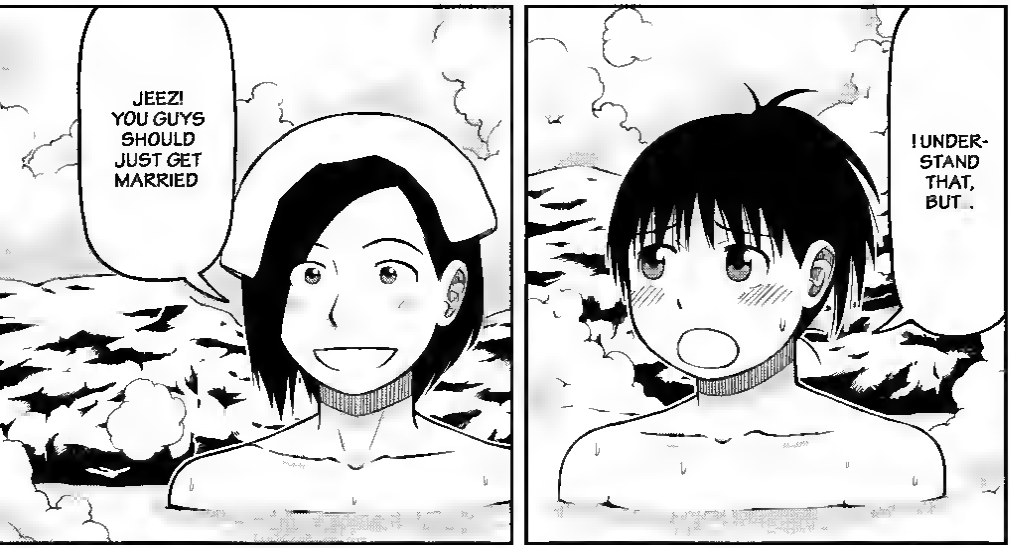
YOU TWO REALLY AREN'T GOING OUT?
NO, WE'RE NOT

OH.
I TOTALLY THOUGHT YOU GUYS HAD SOMETHING GOING ON

ER, UH,
I'M NOT SHUTARO'S GIRLFRIE—
HUH? OH, REALLY?
YES!

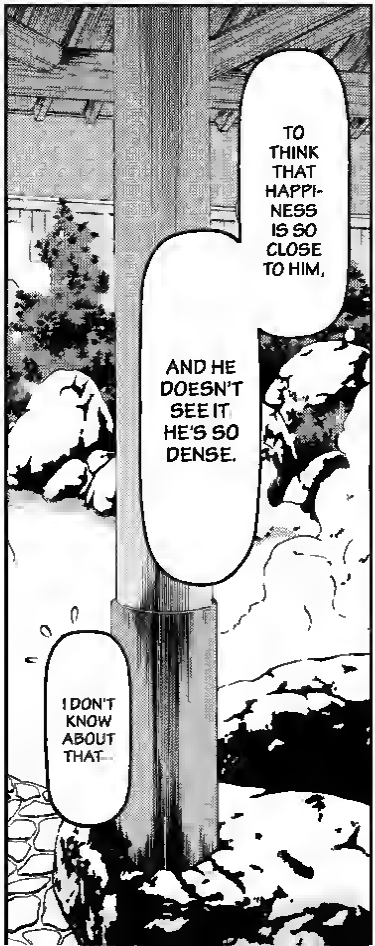

HUH.

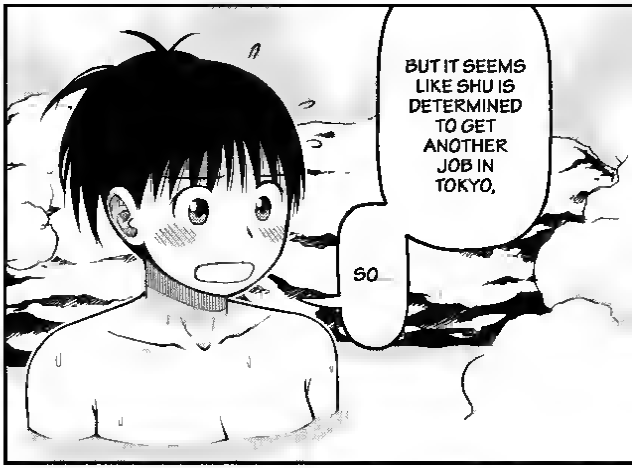
BUT YOU DON'T DISLIKE HIM, DO YOU?
WELL, NO, BUT
HE ACTUALLY CAME BACK HERE,
SO IT'S A GOOD OPPOR-TUNITY, ISN'T IT?
I MIGHT BE A LITTLE BIASED,
BUT HE'S A GOOD GUY
...


I UNDER-STAND THAT, BUT...
JEEZ! YOU GUYS SHOULD JUST GET MARRIED

YOU'RE NOT GETTING ANY YOUNGER, TOMOE-CHAN.
ER...

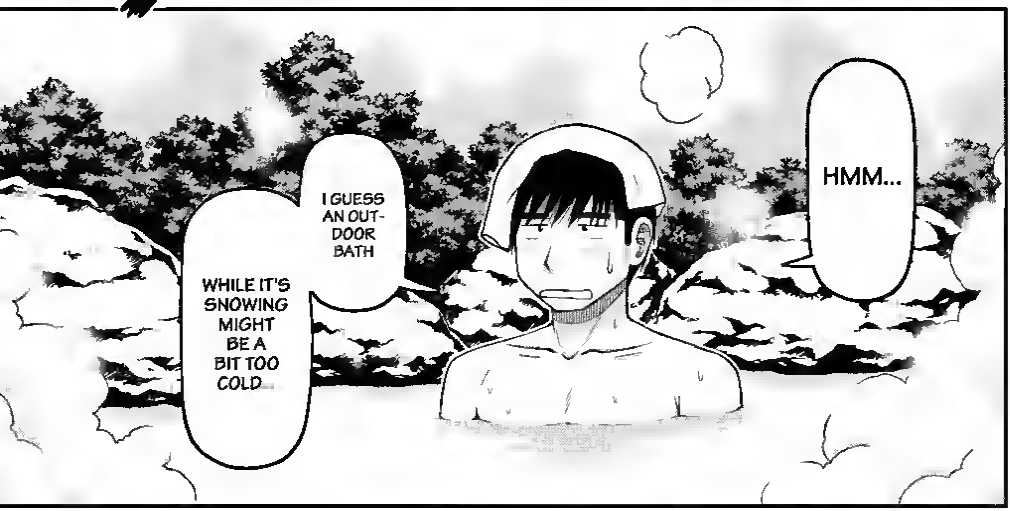
THIS FAMILY...
RIGHT?
NINA THINKS SO, TOO

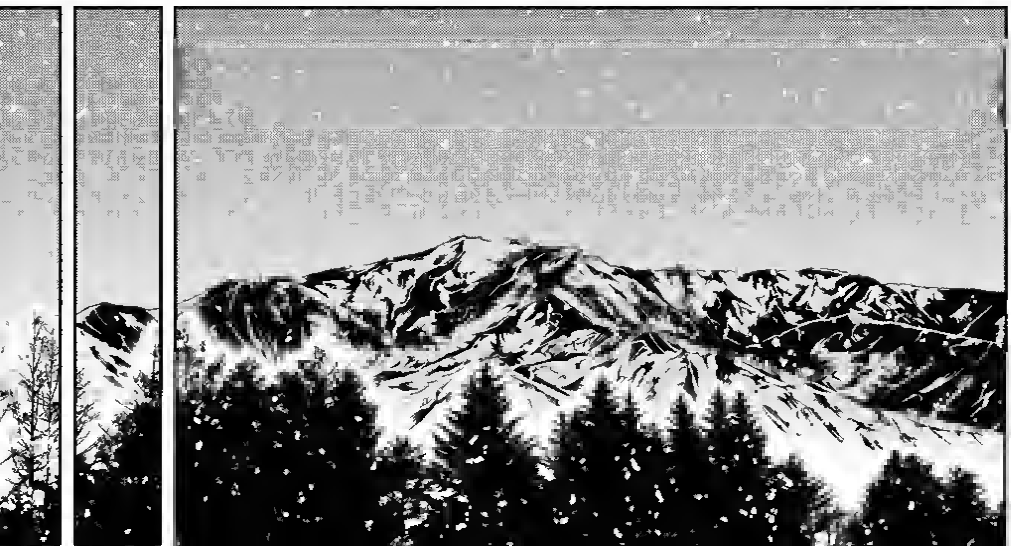

TO THINK THAT HAPPI-NESS IS SO CLOSE TO HIM,
AND HE DOESN'T SEE IT. HE'S SO DENSE.
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT...


BUT IT SEEMS LIKE SHU IS DETERMINED TO GET ANOTHER JOB IN TOKYO,
SO...

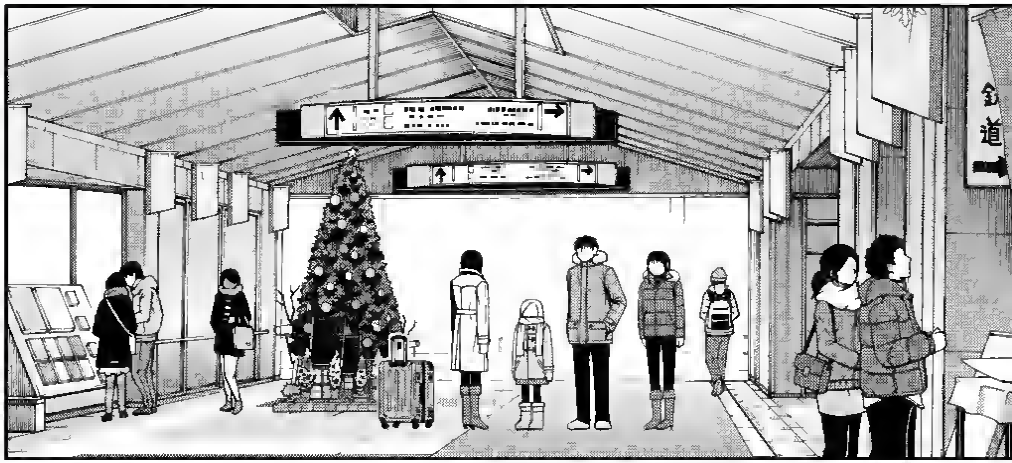
WHA?

AH=-CHOO!
AH...
AH...


HMM...
I GUESS AN OUT-DOOR BATH
WHILE IT'S SNOWING MIGHT BE A BIT TOO COLD...

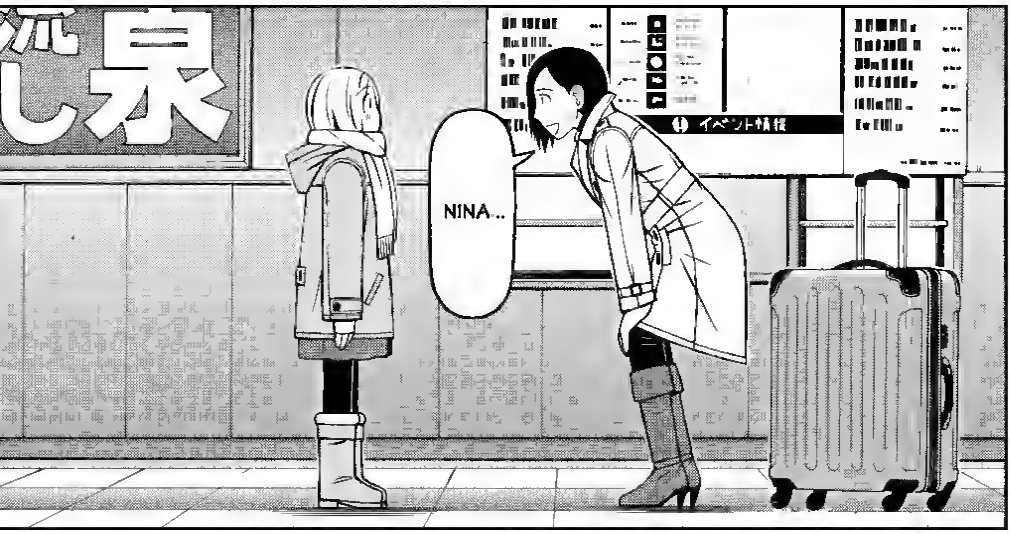


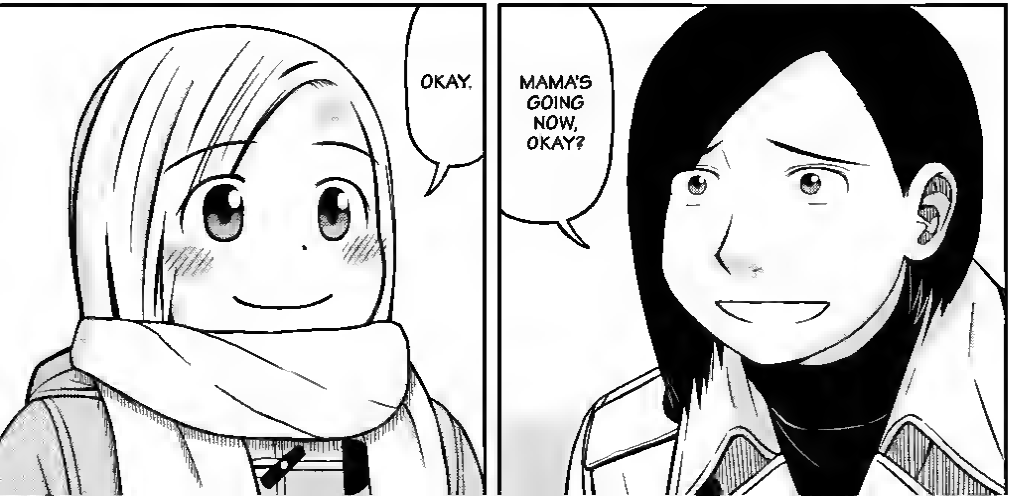
軽井沢駅



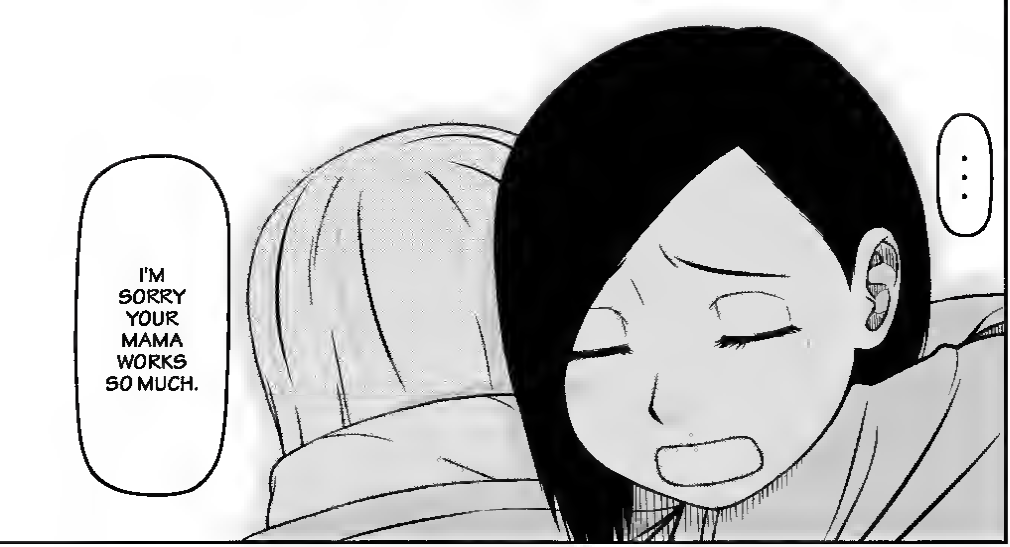
ALL RIGHT TOMOE-CHAN, DO YOUR BEST
R.. RIGHT
?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
N..
NONE OF YOUR BUSI-NESS

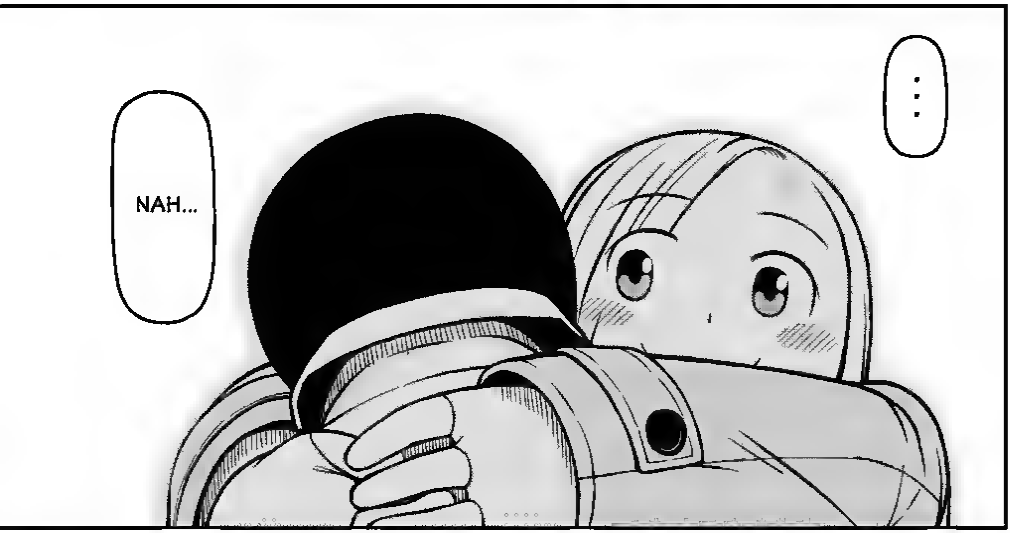
NEE-CHAN,
THE SHINKAN-SEN S ALMOST HERE
RIGHT
OKAY...
YOU NEED TO LEARN TO LOOK AT YOUR-SELF
AND THE THINGS AROUND YOU MORE CLEARLY
SHUTARO,

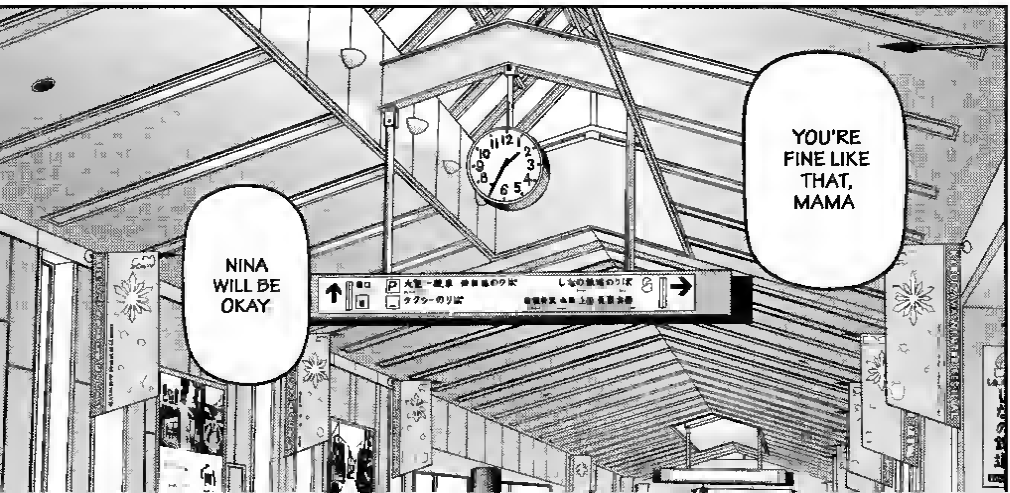

NINA...

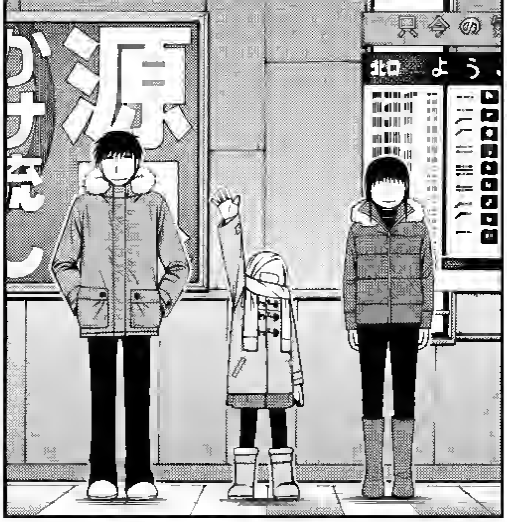

OKAY.
MAMA'S GOING NOW, OKAY?

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, NINA
YOU CAN'T JUST EAT ICE CREAM, OKAY?
YUP. YOU TOO, MAMA
YEP
DON'T BE PICKY. EAT EVERYTHING ON YOUR PLATE
YEP. ANYTHING THAT'S NOT NATTO
Welcome to 軽井沢
レンタカー

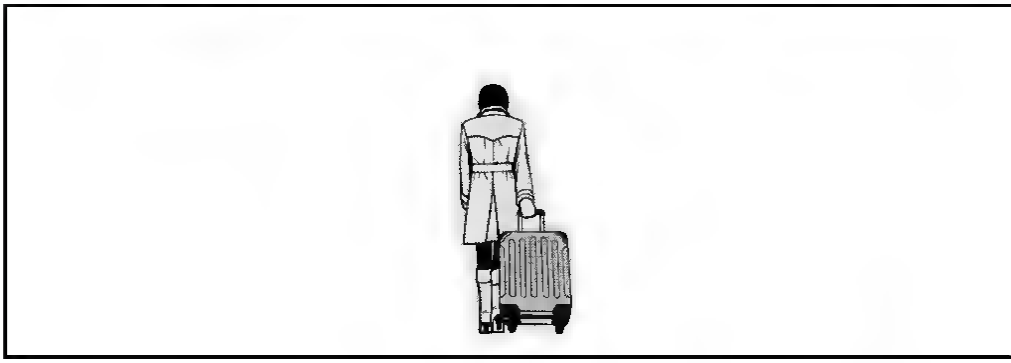

I'M SORRY YOUR MAMA WORKS SO MUCH.
...


NAH...
...


NINA WILL BE OKAY
YOU'RE FINE LIKE THAT, MAMA

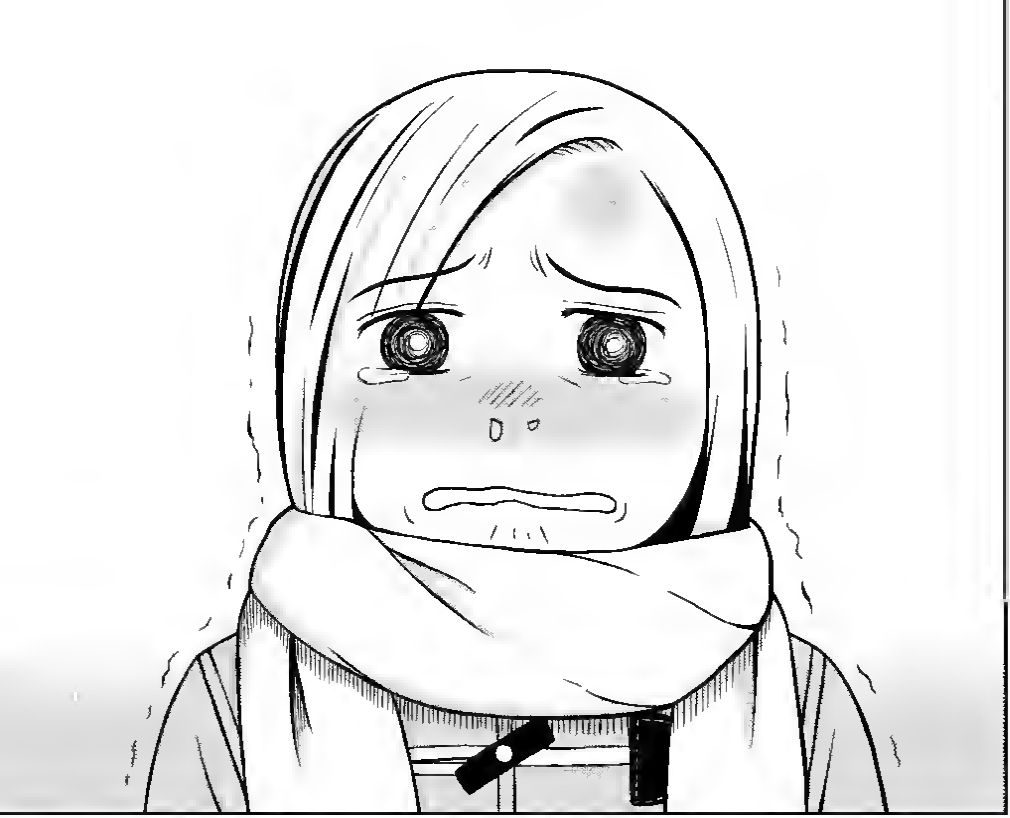

只今の
北口
よう、
源
かなえ

軽井沢 theバーゲン
12.5 ~12.15

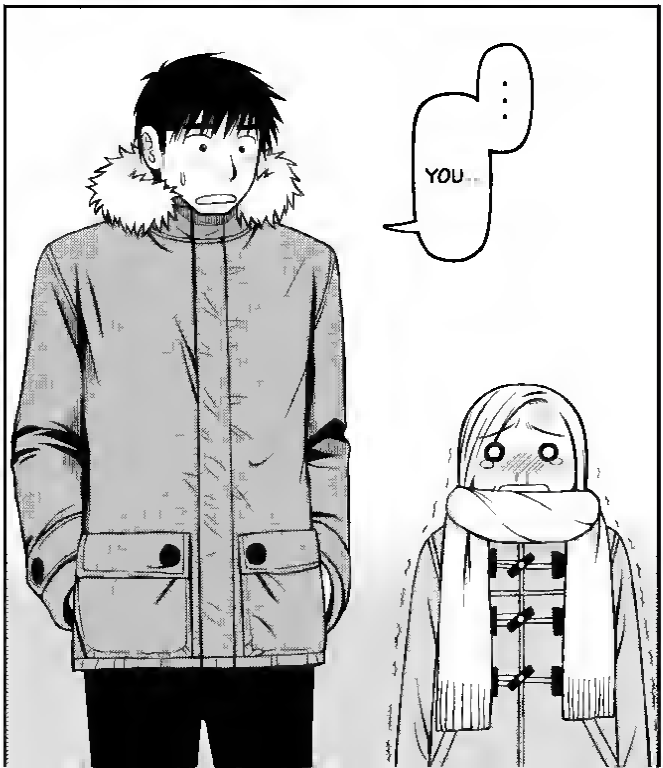


NINA
YOU KNOW YOU COULD HAVE SAID MORE, RIGHT?
LIKE YOU DON'T WANT HER TO GO
行っちゃやだとかさ
…
…

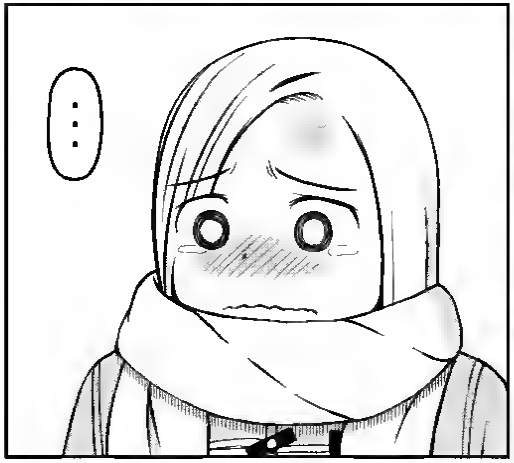
THERE GOES NEE-CHAN
…
…



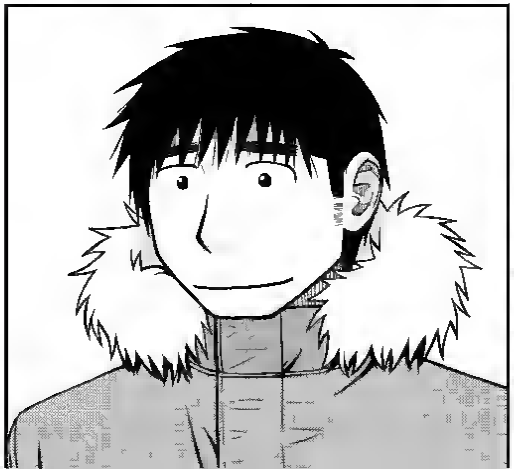
KAHUSAWA WINTER FESTIVAL
HUH?!
YOUR FACE IS REALLY UGLY RIGHT NOW, YOU KNOW THAT?


YOU...
...

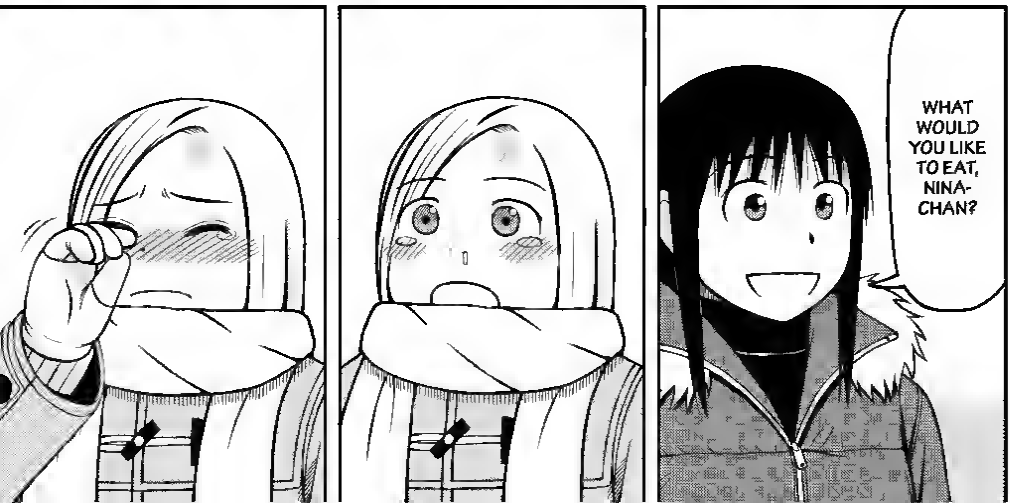
HAHA. YOUR CUTE FACE IS ALL RUINED.
UGH! SHUTARO, YOU IDIOT!
みちゃダメっ
DON'T LOOK!

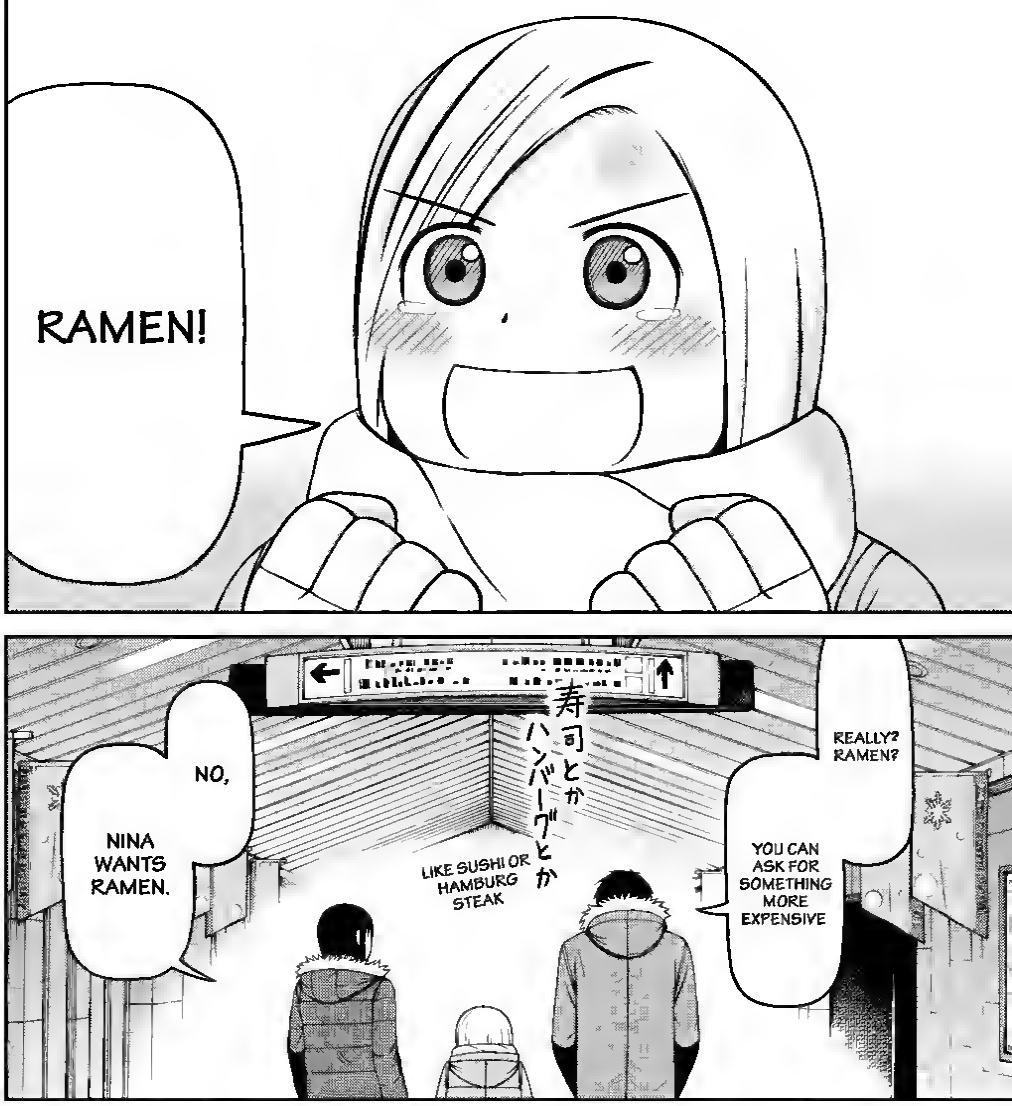

...

BUT I'M PROUD OF YOU
YOU DIDN'T WANT NEE-CHAN TO SEE THAT FACE, RIGHT?
YUP.



TOMOE,
SINCE WE CAME ALL THE WAY TO KARUIZAWA,
LET'S GO GET SOMETHING GOOD TO EAT
GOOD IDEA


WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO EAT, NINA-CHAN?



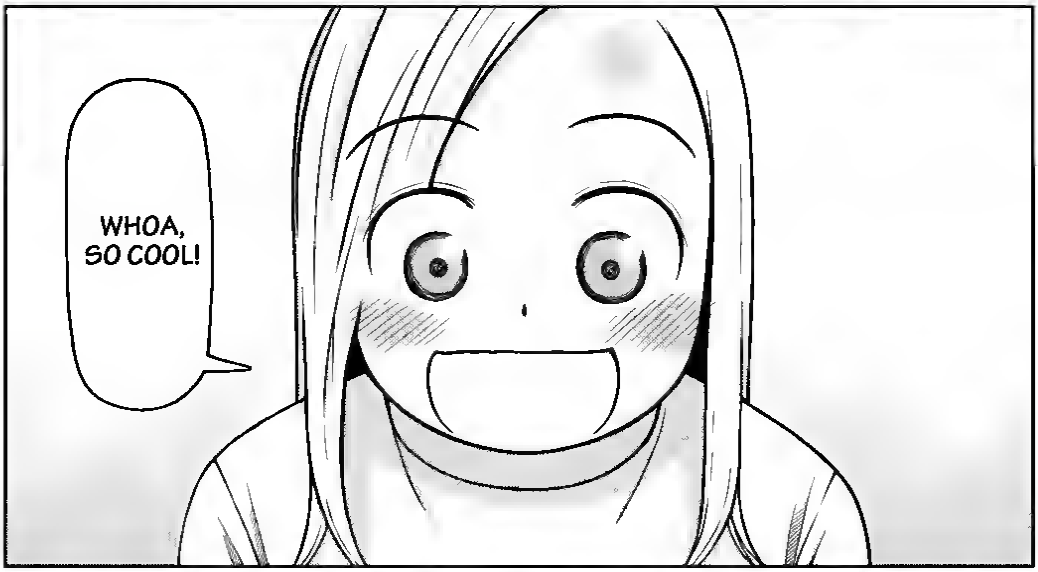
RAMEN IS THE BEST!

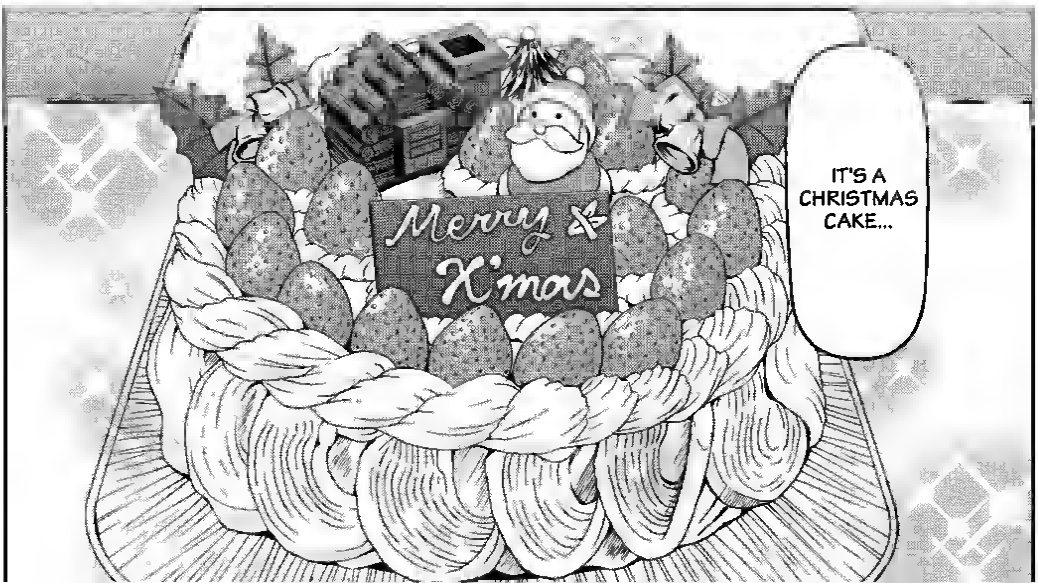
CHAPTER 52

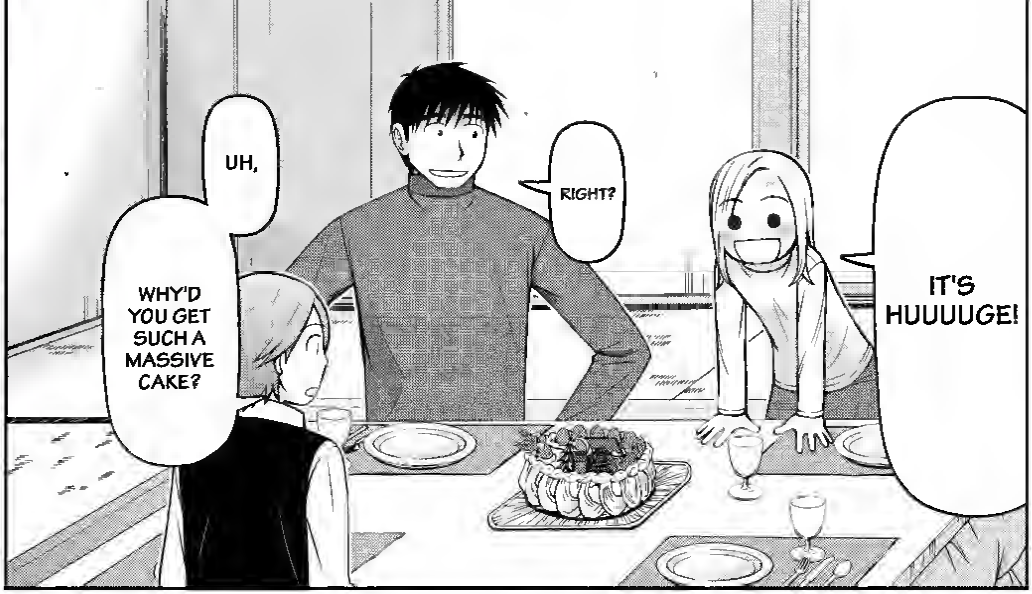
PRESENTS FOR ALL

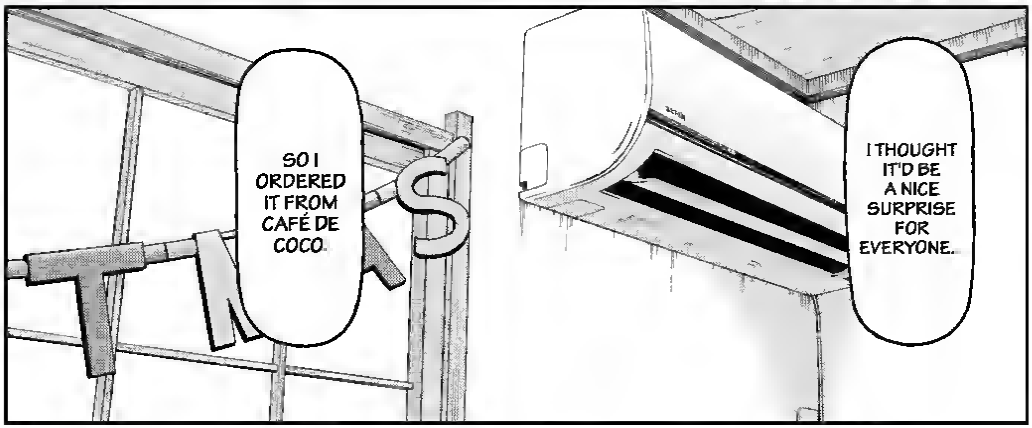
A SMALL JOULUPUKKI IS HERE FROM FINLAND!

AFTER A LONG DECEMBER, CHRISTMAS COMES TO THE SHIMAZAKI HOUSEHOLD!


WHOA, SO COOL!


Merry X'mas
IT'S A CHRISTMAS CAKE...


IT'S HUUUUGE!
RIGHT?
UH,
WHY'D YOU GET SUCH A MASSIVE CAKE?


I THOUGHT IT'D BE A NICE SURPRISE FOR EVERYONE.
SO I ORDERED IT FROM CAFÉ DE COCO.

IS THIS YOUR FIRST TIME EATING CAKE ON CHRIST-MAS, NINA?
YEP
FINNISH PEOPLE DON'T EAT CAKE ON CHRIST-MAS
OH, REALLY?

CLACK
ガチャ
HUH, I SEE!
WE EAT STAR-SHAPED PIES CALLED JOULU-TORTTU
ON CHRIST-MAS,
MERRY CHRIST-MAS!
OH!

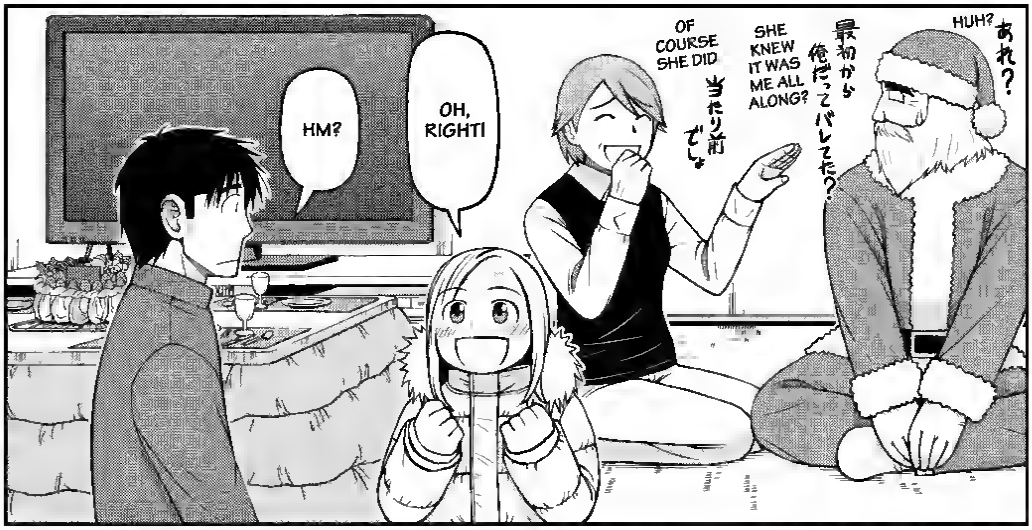
IT'S JOULU-PUKKI!
MERR
ER, JOULU-PUKKI?
WHAT'S THAT? 何だそれ?
IT'S WHAT FINNISH PEOPLE CALL SANTA CLAUS.

AH, I SEE NOW.
WELL, MERRY CHRIST-MAS, NINA-CHAN.
YAY!

YOU'VE BEEN SUCH A GOOD GIRL, NINA-CHAN, SO...
ゴソ RUSTLE
ゴソ RUSTLE
I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU A PRESENT
THANK YOU!

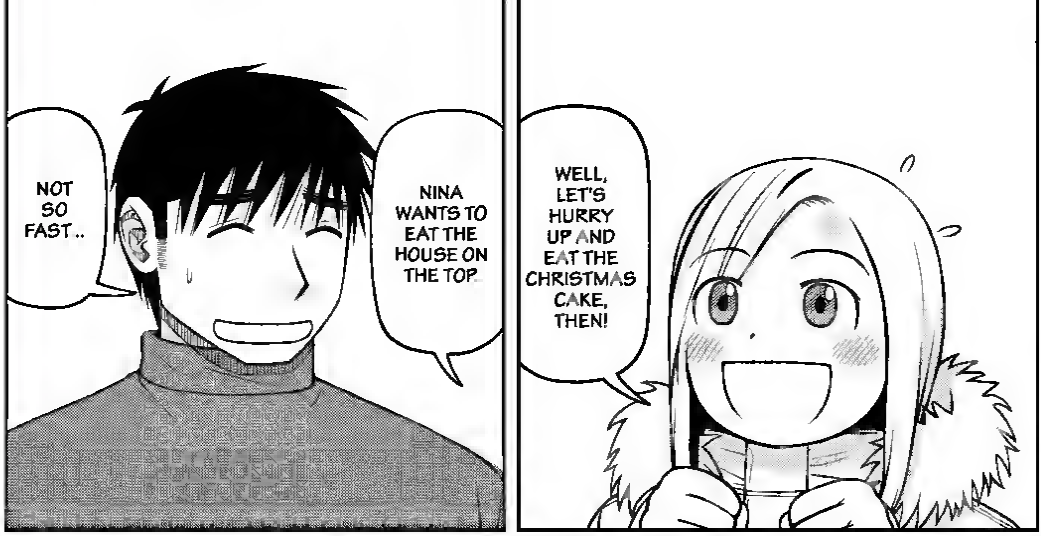
IT'S A WINTER COAT!
OOH!
HOW'S THIS LOOK?
OOH.
OKAY
WHY DON'T YOU TRY IT ON AND SHOW US WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE, NINA-CHAN?

THANK YOU, GRANDPA
YOU'RE WELCOME
REALLY?
ホント？
LOOKIN' GOOD, NINA-CHAN!

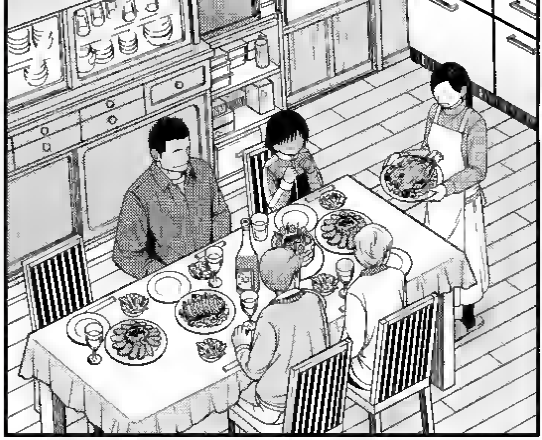

HM?
OH, RIGHT!
OF COURSE SHE DID
当たり前でしょ
SHE KNEW IT WAS ME ALL ALONG?
最初から俺だってバレてた？
HUH?
あれ？

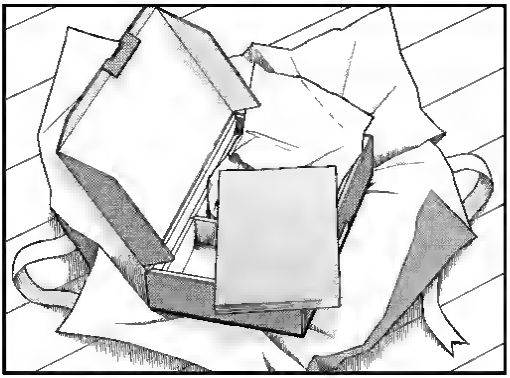
LET'S JUST CONSIDER THIS CHRISTMAS CAKE MY PRESENT.
AH, RIGHT
ケーキがあった!!
THE CAKE!

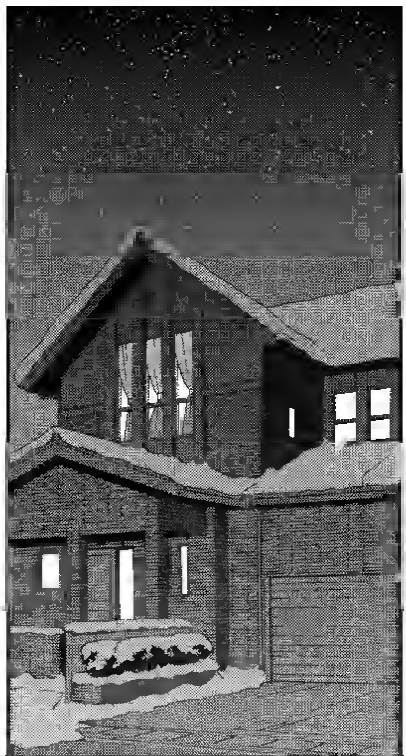
DO YOU NOT HAVE A PRESENT, SHUTARO?
HUH?
ME?


NOT SO FAST..
NINA WANTS TO EAT THE HOUSE ON THE TOP.
WELL, LET'S HURRY UP AND EAT THE CHRISTMAS CAKE, THEN!

OKAY!
YOU CAN HAVE SOME CAKE AFTER DINNER.







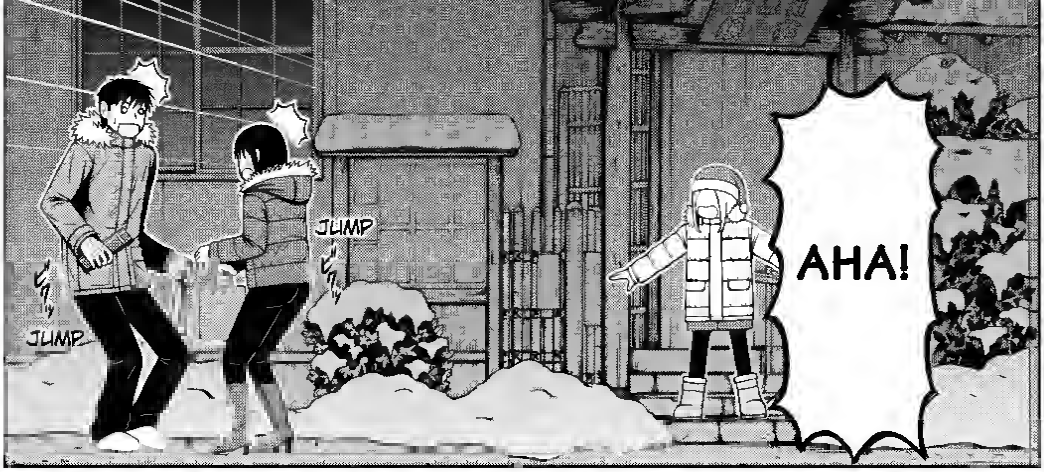
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING, TOMOE.
カチャン
CLACK
BUT YDU DIDN'T HAVE TD WAIT DUT HERE, YOU KNDW
IF YDU'VE GDT A PRESENT FDR NINA, YDU CDULD'VE CDME INSIDE
JEEZ, THAT TOOK FDREVER!
HDW LONG WERE YDU PLANNING TO KEEP ME STANDING OUT HERE IN THE CDLD, ANYWAY?
UH, SORRY
I DDN'T REALLY THINK ANYONE WOULD'VE CARED THAT MUCH.
YEAH, BUT...
REALLY?
EH, I'D FEEL BAD FOR INTRUDING,
ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU'RE ENJOYING FAMILY TIME TOGETHER

YEAH
I THINK NINA WILL BE REALLY HAPPY
THANKS, TOMOE
SURE
CAN YOU GIVE THIS TO NINA-CHAN AND TELL HER IT'S FROM ME?
HERE.
HM?
ALSO...
UH...
HERE...

FOR ME?
THIS ONE IS YOURS.
...
OH, SORRY.
HEY!
JUST HURRY UP AND TAKE IT ALREADY
WH-
WHAT?
THANK GOOD-NESS
HEH.
...

EH?
WELL, I ACTUALLY HAVE SOME-THING...
FOR YOU, TOO.
WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE I'D EXPECT YOU TO GIVE ME SOME HUGE GIFT WHEN YOU DON'T HAVE A JOB
GOOD POINT
UM...
IT'S NOTHING REALLY THAT LARGE, OR ANY-THING...
...
BUT..

I'M HAPPY, SO...
THANK YOU.
NO, THANK YOU.
YOU'VE HELPED ME OUT SO MUCH DURING THE LAST SIX MONTHS
WELL...
...


JUMP
JUMP
AHA!

NO WE'RE NOT!
WHAT?
HUH?
ARE BEING ALL TOUCHY-FEELY WITH EACH OTHER!
SHUTARO AND TOMOE...

SHUTARO IS SO SMOOTH
UH,
OH, YEAH

YOU LEFT THE ROOM, SO NINA CAME LOOKING FOR YOU,
AND HERE YOU ARE, JUST SNEAKING AROUND WITH TOMOE!

THANK YOU, TOMOE!
I HOPE YOU LIKE IT.
REALLY?
TOMOE BROUGHT YOU A PRESENT, NINA
SHE'S RIGHT.
HUH?
BUT..
HEY, COME EAT SOME CHRISTMAS CAKE WITH US, TOMOE.
PLEASE HELP US, TOMOE
...
I BOUGHT AN ENORMOUS CAKE,
AND WE'RE NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO EAT ALL OF IT BY OURSELVES

MERRY CHRISTMAS.

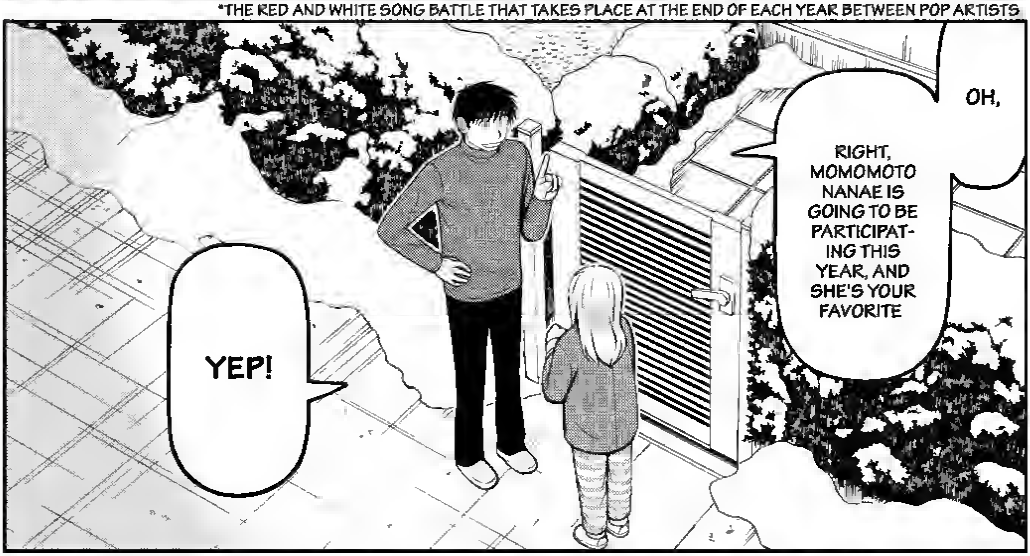
THE WORDS THAT BRING HAPPINESS TO ALL!

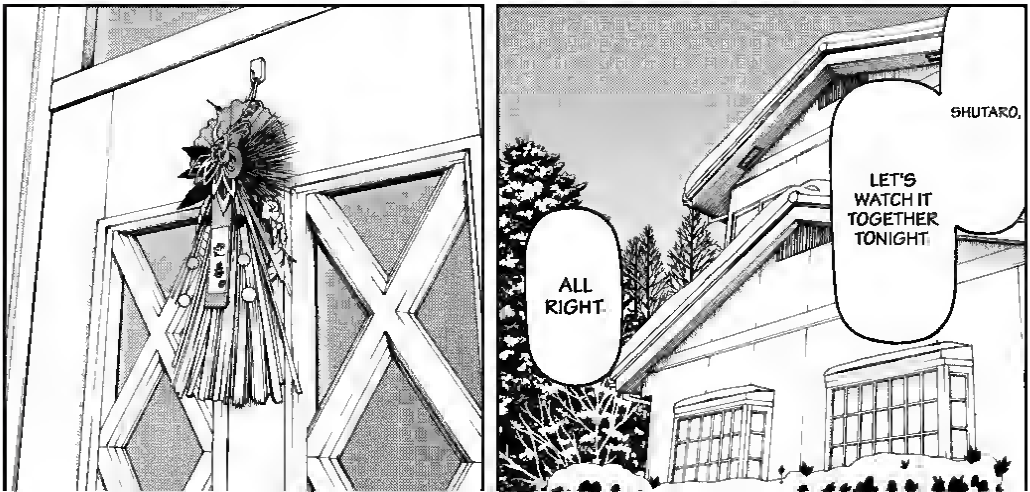
CHAPTER 53

HEAVY EYELIDS

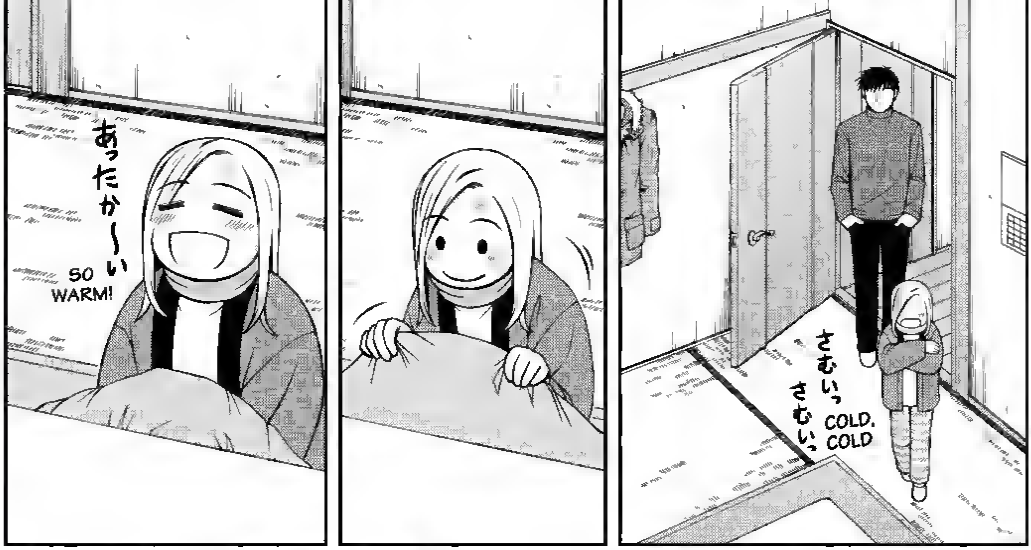
THE SNOW HAS STOPPED JUST IN TIME FOR NINA TO SPEND HER FIRST NEW YEAR'S EVE IN JAPAN!
WE'RE HEADING OUT NOW.
HAVE A GOOD ONE!
ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO GO ON...
THE NEIGHBOR-HOOD ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL TRIP TO THE HOT SPRINGS WITH MOM AND DAD?
YES!

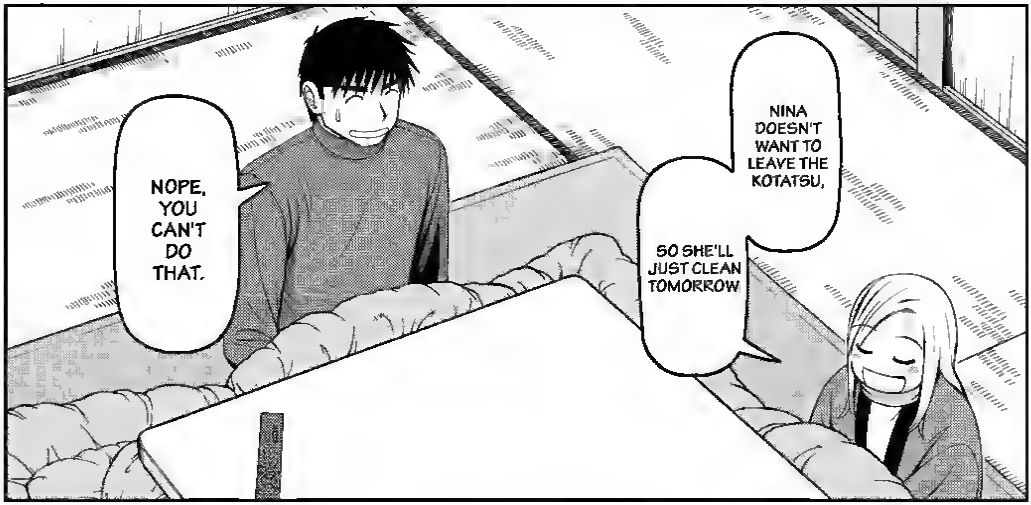
*THE RED AND WHITE SONG BATTLE THAT TAKES PLACE AT THE END OF EACH YEAR BETWEEN POP ARTISTS

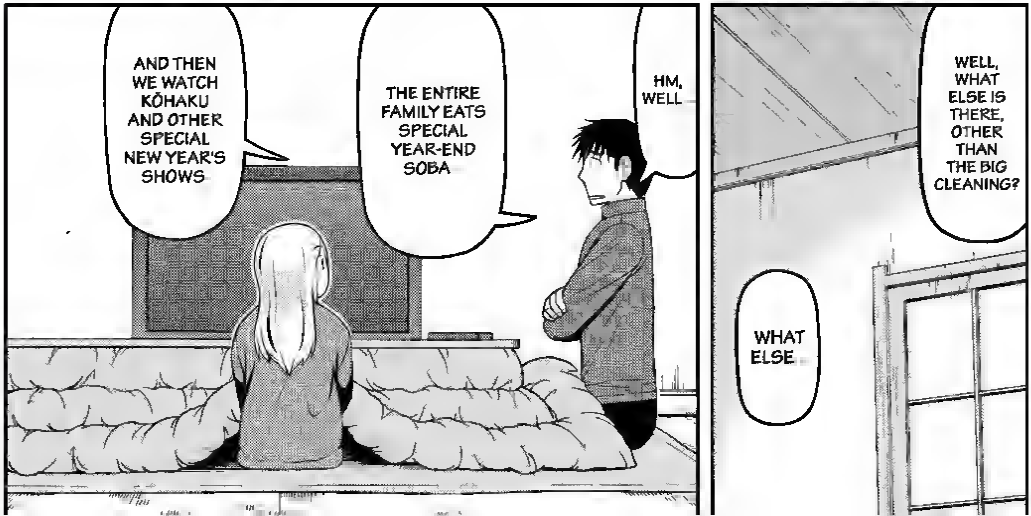




IS KŌHAKU THE ONLY THING YOU KNOW ABOUT?
WHAT ELSE DO JAPANESE PEOPLE DO ON NEW YEAR'S EVE?
HEY SHUTARO?
HM?
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO CLEAN UP ALL YOUR MESSES FOR THIS YEAR BEFORE NEXT YEAR COMES
OR SO THEY SAY
FIRST, THERE'S A BIG CLEANING
A BIG CLEAN-ING?
THAT INCLUDES YOUR ROOM, NINA.
はーい
OOKAY.
HUH.
SO, IN ORDER TO FEEL REFRESHED IN TIME FOR THE NEW YEAR,
YOU CLEAN UP EVERY-THING AROUND YOU

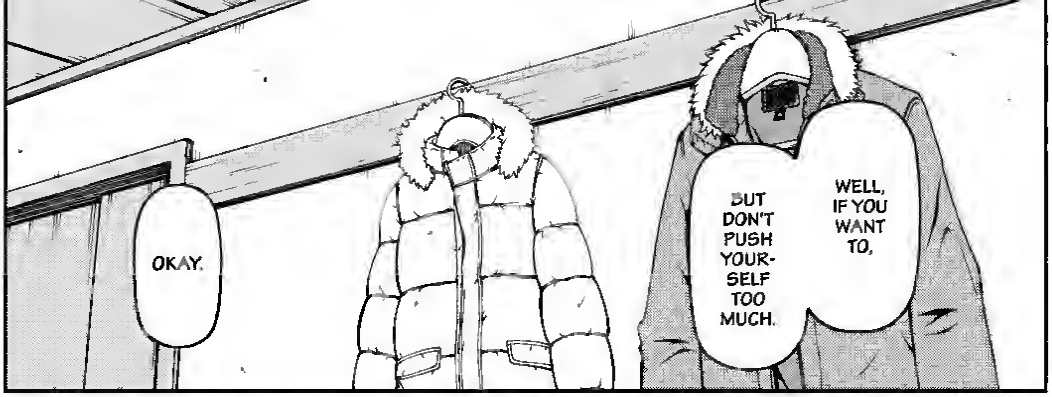

あったかーい
SO WARM!
さむいっ さむいっ
COLD, COLD


NINA DOESN'T WANT TO LEAVE THE KOTATSU,
SO SHE'LL JUST CLEAN TOMORROW
NOPE, YOU CAN'T DO THAT.


HM, WELL
THE ENTIRE FAMILY EATS SPECIAL YEAR-END SOBA
AND THEN WE WATCH KŌHAKU AND OTHER SPECIAL NEW YEAR'S SHOWS
WELL, WHAT ELSE IS THERE, OTHER THAN THE BIG CLEANING?
WHAT ELSE

AND SO...
AFTER MIDNIGHT, WHEN IT BECOMES JANUARY 1ST...
EVERYONE STAYS UP PRETTY LATE ON NEW YEAR'S EVE.
REAL-LY?
EVERYONE THEN SAYS
"I WISH YOU A HAPPY NEW YEAR!"
TO EACH OTHER.
I WISH YOU A..
HAPPY NEW YEAR?
YEAH, JUST LIKE THAT.

IT'S KIND OF SILLY THAT YOU HAVE TO SPEAK TO FAMILY IN SUCH A FORMAL WAY
SO WEIRD
変なの
WELL, THAT'S JUST HOW NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS WORK HERE, I GUESS.
OKAY, NINA WILL TELL YOU THAT TONIGHT, SHUTARO.
LIKE, WISH YOU A HAPPY NEW YEAR AND STUFF
HEH.
YOU'VE NEVER STAYED UP THAT LATE BEFORE.
YEAH...
BUT NINA WILL DO IT TONIGHT!
NINA WILL DO HER BEST!
...

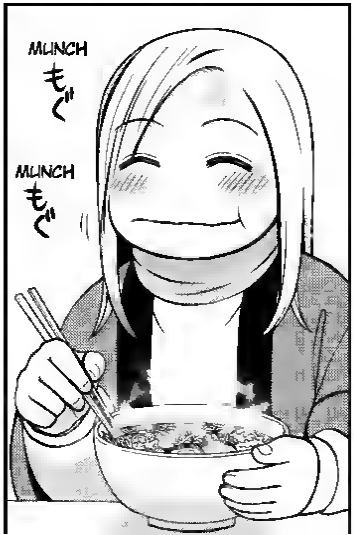

OKAY.
BUT DON'T PUSH YOUR-SELF TOO MUCH.
WELL, IF YOU WANT TO,

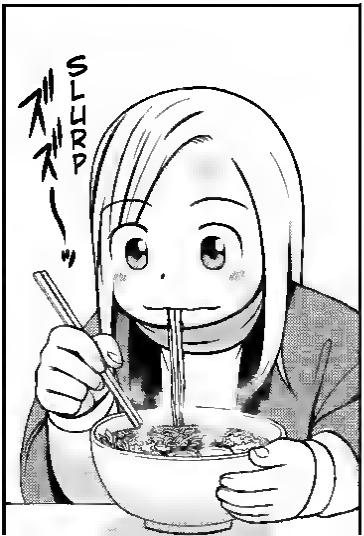
ALL RIGHT.
MAKE SURE YOU CLEAN YOUR ROOM, NINA.
LET'S START CLEANING, THEN.

IT'S HOT, SO BE CAREFUL.
BLOW ふぅ
BLOW ふぅ

THANK YOU FOR THE FOOD

THIS YEAR-END SOBA IS SO GOOD!


MUNCH もぐ
MUNCH もぐ

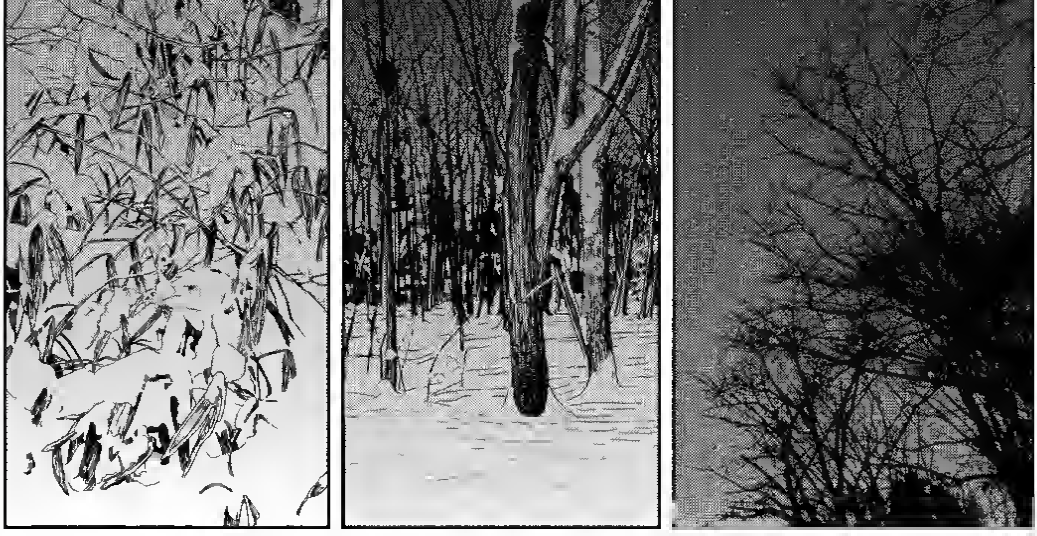

SLURP ズズー!!

THE KŌHAKU IS STARTING!
SHU-TARO
じょぼ BLUB
じょぼ BLUB
C'MON, HURRY UP!
ALL RIGHT, FINE
AH!
I JUST SAW MOMONA-CHAN ON THE TV!
CALM DOWN, THAT'S JUST THE OPENING.

HEY, NINA, DO YOU WANT A SLICE OF TANGERINE?
SURE.
HERE, OPEN WIDE.
あーん AAH
んっ NN
ばくっ MUNCH
MMM.
SO GOOD.

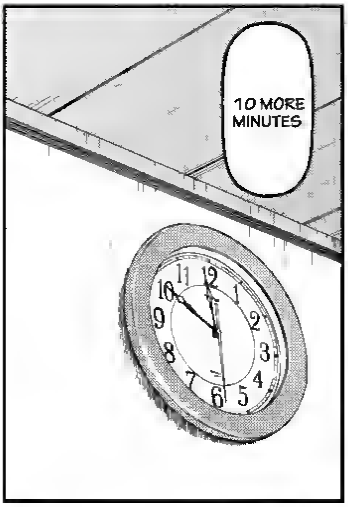
AND NOW, IT'S HER TURN TO SING
THIS IS MOMO-MOTO NANAE,
SINGING "PURITY STAMPEDE"
MOMONA-CHAN!
IT'S HER!
ビクッ
JUMP
キャー
KYAAA
MOMONA-CHAN!

MOMONA-CHAAAAN!
モモナちゃーーん



NOD
NOD

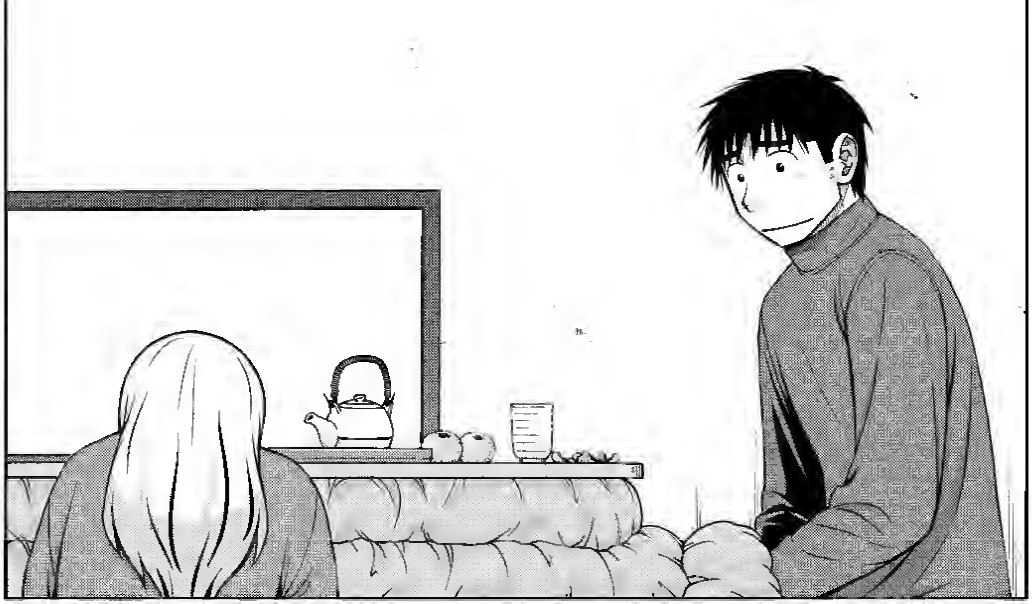
THE KŌHAKU IS OVER,
SO WHY DON'T YOU GO TO BED, NINA?

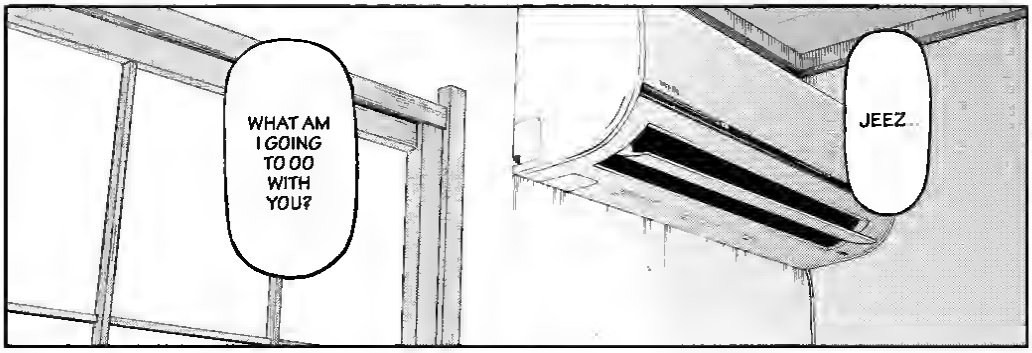

10 MORE MINUTES

NINA WILL STAY UP
JUST A BIT LONG-ER

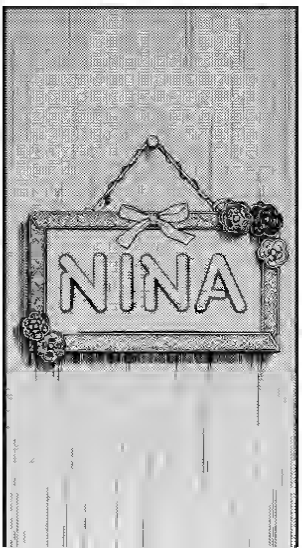
WELL, DO YOUR BEST.

WE WISH YOU A HAPPY NEW YEAR, EVERY-ONE.
WE HAVE NOW JUST RUNG IN THE NEW YEAR.
GONG
NI...
IT'S THE NEW YEAR NOW
NINA,
ZZZ




WHAT AM I GOING TO DO WITH YOU?
JEEZ...

SHU-TARO


NINA

HAPPY NEW YEAR.

MAY THE NEXT YEAR BE A GREAT ONE TOO, NINA...

THE NEW YEAR SHOULD BE EVEN MORE FUN!